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saka toshio presents

CHAPTER 484

A FOUR-WAY FACE-OFF

IT PIERCED THROUGH MY BODY...

REFE-REE... MANABE?

IS THIS

I CAN'T MOVE...

WHERE I END ...?

MARCO

NO.28 MIDAORA YUUSUKE

NO.2 KADOKURA YUUDAI

NO.29 MANABE TAKUMI

CHAPTER 484

A FOUR-WAY FACE-OFF

REFEREE KADOKURAAAA~

JUST AS I HAD EXPECTED.

THIS IS NOW OUR CHANCE TO STEAL ALL 4 OF HIS HANDKERCHIEFS, INCLUDING HIS OWN.

TO THINK I COULD ADMIRE A MAN OF VALOR LIKE YOU

HOW WONDER-FUL~

CRASHING DOWN AND CRAWLING SHAMEFULLY HERE~

FOR US TWO, WHO HAVE INHALED SO MUCH SMOKE ALREADY,

WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN ANYMORE IF WE LET HIM ESCAPE NOW.

UNDER-STOOD, MARCO?

LET'S RUN UP THERE WITHOUT DROPPING OUR GUARD...

HOWEVER, PLEASE STAY PRUDENT.

REFEREE MANABE SHOULD STILL BE HIDING CLOSE BY.

KADOKURA HAS +3= 4, MARCO = 1, MANABE = 1

AT WORSE, I COULD STILL WIN BY OBTAINING A NEW ONE AND GETTING YOURS, FOR A TOTAL AT 5.

I HAVE +2 WITH ME, 3 HANDKER-CHIEFS IN TOTAL.

THERE ARE 9 HANDKER-CHIEFS IN TOTAL.

MARCO WONDERS IF HE COULD...

BAKU-NIICHAN...

BE OF A LITTLE HELP WITH THIS...?

IS IT TRUE, WHAT YOU SAID?

WILL YOU HELP ME, MARCO?

I AM NOT LYING.

BECAUSE A BATTLE OF "WITS AND MIND GAMES" IS THE GAME I WANT TO SEE THE MOST BETWEEN THOSE TWO.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, REFEREE MANABE!?

DURING THE FEW SECONDS WHILE I WAS FAINTING ...?

BASTARD... WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTACK ME ONCE MORE.

...? I SEE, YOU DON'T KNOW THE RULES.

WHY IS THAT?

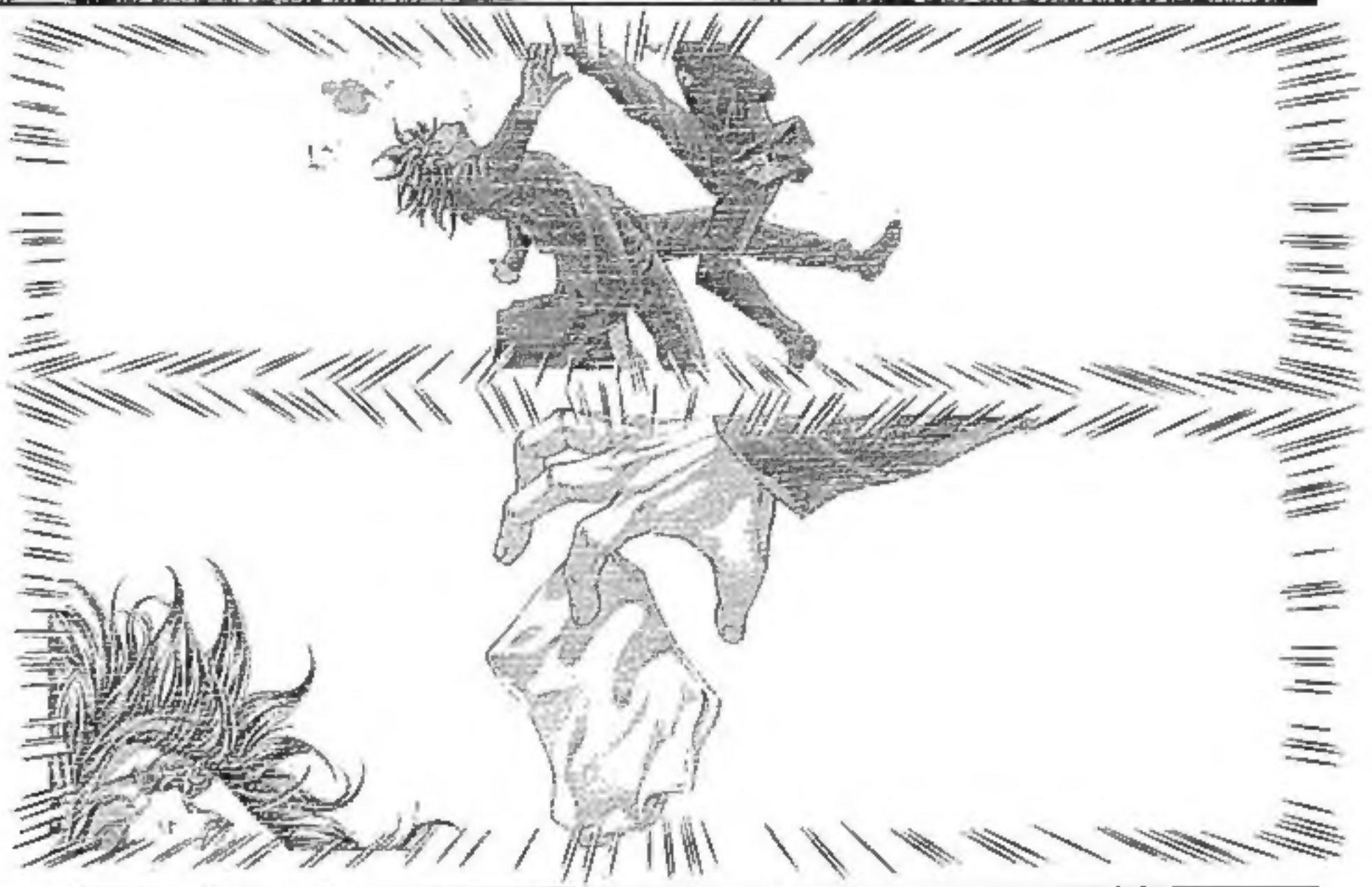
THE FIRST PRIORITY TO STEAL IS "KADOKURA'S OWN HANDKERCHIEF". IF WE MANAGE TO DO SO, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN ANYMORE.

YOU CANNOT BECOME THE WINNER AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR OWN HANDKERCHIEF.

IN THIS GAME OF "COLLECTING THE HANDKERCHIEFS, NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU CAN GET,

YOUR OWN...

YOUR OWN HANDKER-CHIEF...



HAS HE BEEN ELECTRICALLY SHOCKED?

OR IS HE SIMPLY KNOCKED DOWN? I CANNOT ASCERTAIN IT JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM.

HUH...

IDEALLY I'D LIKE TWO.

IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON 2 HANDKERCHIEFS, I COULD WIN WITHOUT NEEDING MARCO'S HELP AT ALL.

ALL THE EXPECTATIONS REFEREE NOWA TRUSTED ME WITH...

WELL, JUST TO BE SURE, I'LL HIT HIM ONCE MORE AND TRIGGER THE ELECTRIC SHOCK.

AND... AND ONE OF THEM WILL...

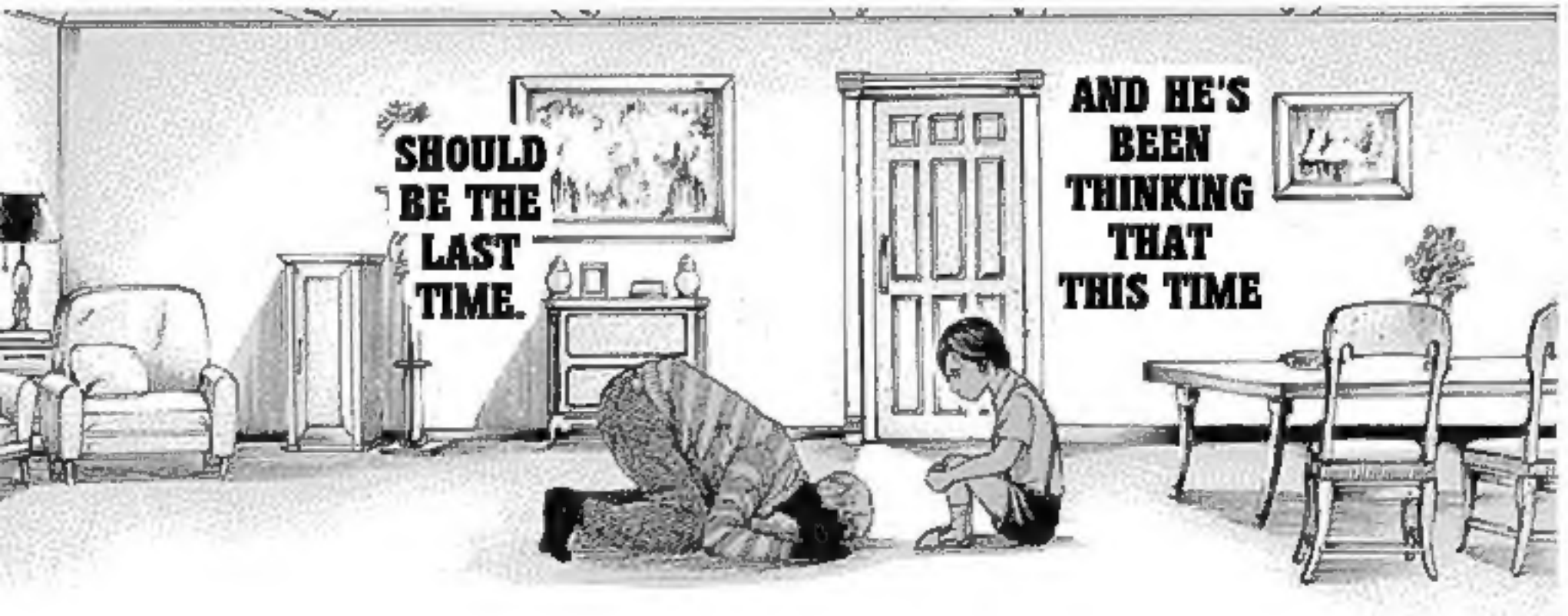
I WILL STAND BET-WEEN THOSE TWO.

THE ONE TO PRESIDE THAT BATTLE WILL BE ME...

MIDARA HAS ALWAYS BEEN
SEAR-CHING FOR IT.

CRASH DOWN AND CRAWL...

AND TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM "YOU WERE NOT THE ONLY ONE"...
IN ORDER FOR HIM TO CONSOLE HIS FATHER WHO DID THE SAME.
A JOURNEY OF FINDING OTHER PEOPLE, CRAWLING DOWN SHAMEFULLY.


SHOULD BE THE LAST TIME.
AND HE'S BEEN THINKING THAT THIS TIME

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MARCO?

?

MARCO FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE SHOULD DO.

MARCO CAN'T LET YOU

TAKE THAT HANDKER-CHIEF!

MARCO.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON PRESIDING THE MATCH AS A REFEREE BY GETTING OUR HANDKER-CHIEFS?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT~

THE SIGHT OF YOU CRASHING DOWN AND CRAWLING...

)))

LET'S DO IT.

REFEREE MANABE,

?!

77oo

MANABE TAKUMI.

CRACK

FORMER CHIEF OF THE PRIVATE FUNERAL DIVISION,

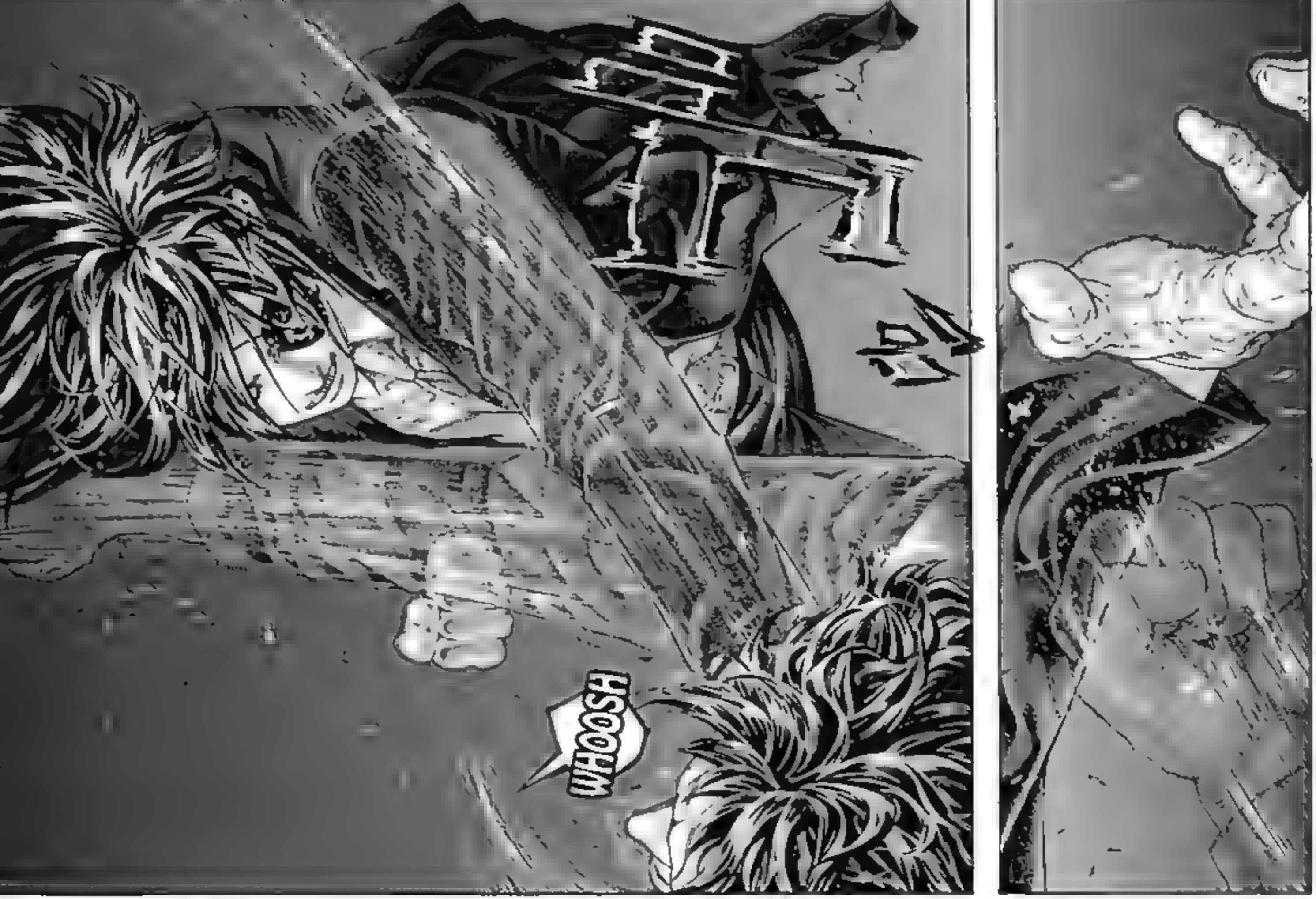
!!

THOSE HOLLOW EYES...
I SEE... IT SEEMS HE REALLY DID INHALE THE SMOKE ...

MANABE TAKUMI...
WHAT IS HE THINK-ING? WHY DIDN'T HE...

KADOKURA YUUDAI... WITH THOSE WOUNDS ALL OVER HIS BODY FROM THOSE CONTINUOUS FIGHTS...
MOREOVER, HE'LL BE SHOCKED THE NEXT TIME HE GETS A HIT TO THE VEST

SHALL WE...
CRACK


WHOOSH

!

IT'S DIFFE-RENT...

HIS FACE IS DIFFE-RENT...

NO...

THE SMOKE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THIS GUY AT ALL!

IT SURE IS REGRETTABLE, ISN'T IT?

CHAPTER 485

THE SEEDS OF THE PRIVATE FUNERAL DIVISION

IT SEEMS I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT GAME...

TAKA-SAN,

THIS MAN MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO WANTED TO PRESIDE THAT SURPASSING THE LEADER MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...

HE'S DEAD IN SUCH A PLACE.

WINNER? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IN A WAY, WE COULD SAY THAT MAN IS ALSO THE WINNER.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF "MONGONGOS"?

I DON'T KNOW ANY MONKEY LIKE THAT.

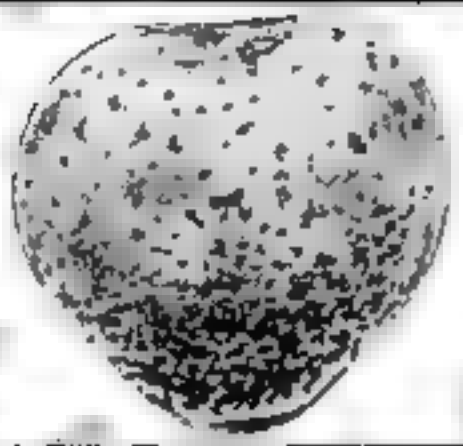
THEY'RE NOT MONKEYS, BUT TREES THAT GROW IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

DO YOU THINK "DEATH" AND "DOWNFALL" BEAR THE SAME MEANING?

ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

TAKA-SAN,

THERE'S NO ANIMAL THAT CAN EAT THE SEEDS PROTECTED INSIDE.



INSIDE A MONGONGO, THERE'S A STRONG AND HARD SHELL.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS TO ANY RULE.

PLANTS AND TREES AREN'T STANDING ALL DAY DOING NOTHING. BUT ARE ALWAYS "PROTECTING THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO NOT GET EATEN"

THE FRUITS ARE ALSO BEING HELD HIGH UP ITS TREE.

AND SOMETIMES ARE COVERED WITH SPIKY THORNS.

ELEPHANTS

SWALLOW THEM WHOLE WITHOUT BOTHERING.

AND JUST DO NOT HAVE THE TIME TO BOTHER WITH SUCH A NUISANCE.

THESE GLUTTONS ARE ALWAYS TRAVELING TO NEW LANDS LOOKING FOR SUSTENANCE.

THE SEEDS ARE BEING SPREAD AROUND.

AND THE SEEDS GET EXCRETED WITH OTHER WASTE... MEANING,

YET, THEY CANNOT DIGEST THE FRUIT FULLY.

BECAME A TREE THAT FLOURISHES ALL ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA.

IN EXCHANGE FOR BEING EATEN, THE MONGONGO

IF WE CONSIDER "HAVING MORE INDIVIDUALS THAN OTHER SPECIES" AS THE DEFINITION OF WINNING...

THE OPPOSITE OF A "DOWNFALL" IS "TO FLOURISH".

CREATURES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CARRIERS FOR DNA...

LIVESTOCK WHICH IS BEING TAKEN CARE OF AND BEING BRED, DOGS WHICH ARE KEPT BY HUMANS... COMPARED TO SPECIES THAT HAVE BECOME EXTINCT, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE TO SAY THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY FLOURISHING?

SHOULD WE SAY THAT MONGONGOS LOSE BY BEING EATEN? OR DO THEY WIN? WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?

"HE WAS ACTUALLY THE MOST SUITABLE FOR PRESIDING SURPASSING THE LEADER"... NOW THAT HE DIED, HIS SEEDS ARE BEING CARRIED EVEN FURTHER AWAY...

BUT RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE WHO KNOWS HIM HAS CARVED IN THEIR MIND THAT "HE WAS THE STRONGEST FORMER REFEREE NO.0, RECOGNIZED BY EVERYONE".

INDEED, HE DIED.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO SAY THAT LIVESTOCK ARE ALSO "WINNERS", ARE YOU?

HUMPH.

WELL, AS USUAL, HE IS QUITE A MYSTERIOUS MAN.

TAKA-SAN.

SO,

I JUST WANT TO CONSIDER THINGS FROM EVERY ASPECT, THAT'S ALL.

WHAT SHREWD KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE THERE.

US?

WHAT ABOUT

!

WAS IT OUR DOWNFALL...?

THE PRIVATE FUNERAL DIVISION WAS ABSORBED BY KAKUROU.

AND DISAPPEARED.

CHAPTER 485

THE SEEDS OF THE PRIVATE FUNERAL DIVISION

SORRY, KADOKURA!!

NO MATTER WHICH ONE OF YOU WINS, YOU WILL GET THE MAJORITY.

THEN, I HAVE TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING.

I HAVE TO DO IT...

WAS IT OUR DOWNFALL? OR DID WE END UP FLOURISHING? TAKA-SAN?

FIGHTING WITH SUCH A MONSTER...!?

KADO-KURA HAS BEEN

WHAT IS THIS MONSTER...?

!!

CRACK

ATTACKS SO PRECISE THEY COULD GO THROUGH A NEEDLE'S EYE JUST KEEP ON COMING WITHOUT INTERRUPTION...

NO WAY I CAN WIN...

HE... HE'S TOO STRONG.

IT'S...

OVER...

NO...

MY SPECULATION... NO WAY...

I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF, BUT...

DOES THE SMOKE REALLY NOT WORK ON MANABE...?

WHY AM I STILL STAND-ING...?

!

NO... HE IS NOT BREATHING...

HE'S MOVING WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF OXYGEN...

IN ORDER TO AVOID BREATHING TOO MUCH SMOKE... HE'S LIMITING HIS BREATHING TO THE MINIMUM..

HE'LL REFLEX-IVELY

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN ANYTHING ENTERS HIS PERSONAL SPACE,

THAT'S WHY HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A TRANCE... HE'S IN A SPECIAL STATE WHERE HIS BODY MOVES WITH LIMITED OXYGEN.

ATTACKING CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL THE OPPONENT STOPS MOVING.

ATTACK IT.

WOULD BE TO MAKE HIM UNABLE TO RECOVER.

MEAN-ING, MY GOAL RIGHT NOW...

HE NEEDED TIME TO RECOVER THROUGH SOME METHOD FROM THE HUGE AMOUNT OF SMOKE HE INHALED DUE TO HIS BIG MOVEMENTS.

THE REASON HE STOPPED ATTACK-ING ME AT THE BEGIN-NING

BUT ALSO BE-CAUSE HE "HAD TO" STOP HIS AT-TACK.

WAS NOT ONLY BE-CAUSE I HAD FALLEN,

AND FOR THAT,

CRAZY GAMBLE...

.....

SINCE WHEN DID I BECOME A PERSON WHO'D DO SOMETHING THAT MIGHT DESTROY ME?

SINCE WHEN...

I HAVE TO KEEP ON STANDING.

GIVING UP MY FACE AND MY ARMS,

I'M MAKING SUCH A CRAZY GAMBLE...!!

HAVE I BEEN MAKING SUCH A FACE?

!

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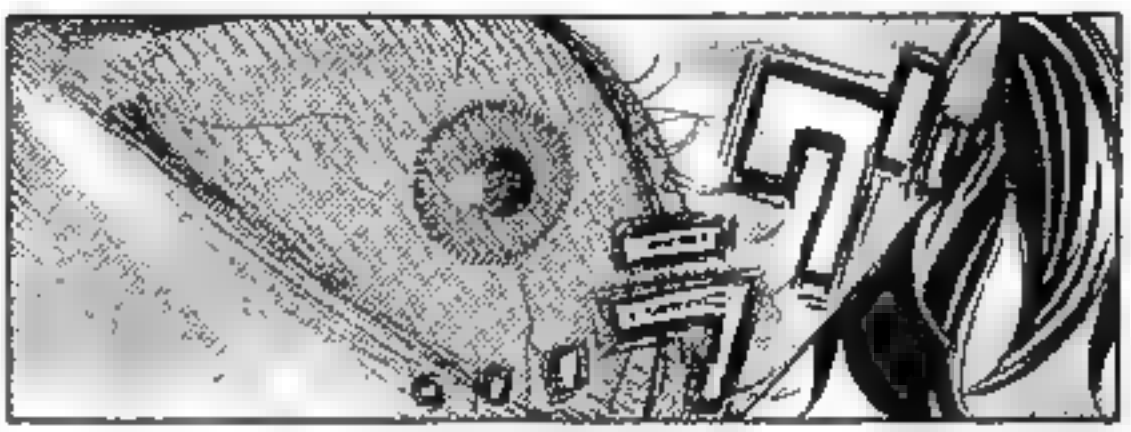
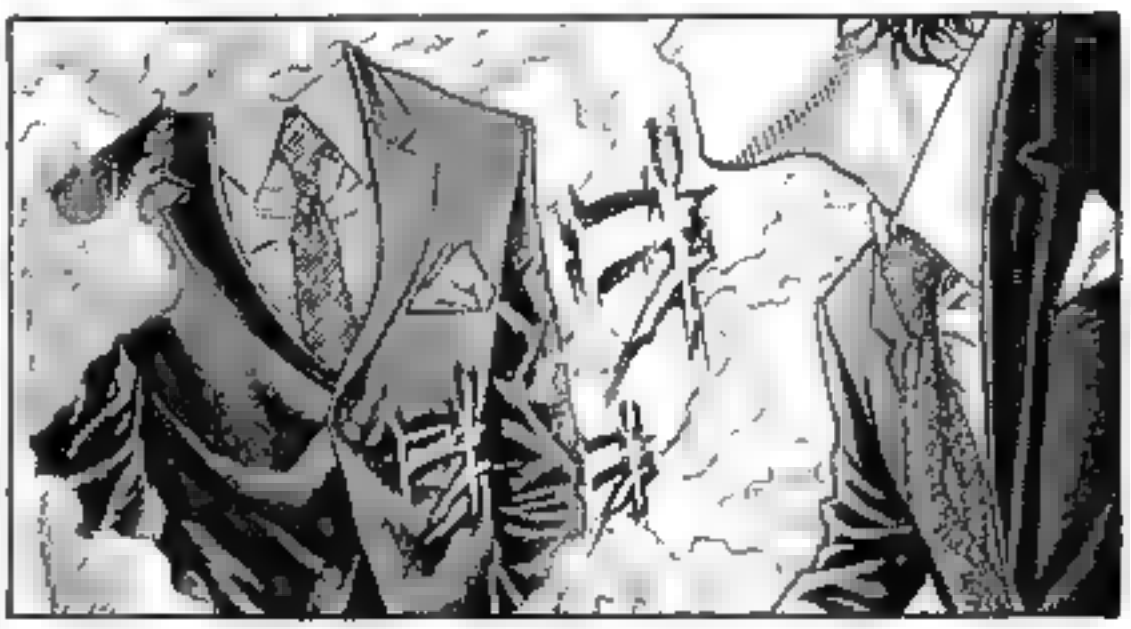
CHAPTER 486





OH...

IT'S YOU.

...

BUT,

YOU ARE ALREADY...

!

NO, MAYBE THEY'RE NOT THAT BAD...

I ONLY FIGHT AGAINST STRONG ONES... HITTING YOU, WHO WAS LOSING HIMSELF IN AN ILLUSION WITH SUCH A PALE FACE... I REALIZED,

IT SEEMS... MY BAD HABITS STARTED SHOWING AGAIN.

WHY

DIDN'T YOU USE THAT CHANCE TO ATTACK ME?

THAT THIS IS NOT LIKE THE REAL ME AT ALL!!

FOR MY FATHER?

FOR REFEREE NOWA?

I HAVE TO WIN.

NO!!

IT'S NOT FOR THEM...

IT'S NOT!!

I...

JUST...

MARCO IS HAVING SO MUCH FUN RIGHT NOW!!

MARCO WANTS TO HELP BAKU-NIICHAN!

MARCO WANTS TO BE HELPFUL!!

"SURPASSING THE LEADER"... IF THIS IS WHAT BAKU-NIICHAN WANTS, THEN MARCO WILL GIVE HIS ALL.

MARCO WANTS TO HELP BAKU NIICHAN GET WHAT HE WANTS.

SO...

BAKU-NIICHAN SAVED MARCO,

THIS TIME, MARCO WILL...

IF MARCO DIDN'T MEET BAKU-NIICHAN,

MARCO WOULD STILL BE EXACTLY AS HE WAS...

WHAT CAN MARCO DO TO REPAY BAKU-NIICHAN...? MARCO ALWAYS THINKS ABOUT THAT.

WHY DID THAT MAN

BRING US INTO KAKEROU?

IN ORDER TO AVOID ONE'S DOWNFALL,

"A NEW CHANGE".

CHANGING IS NECESSARY.

THEY'VE BEEN CONSTANTLY DOING IT THROUGHOUT EVERY ERA.

HE UNDER-STOOD IT COMP-LETELY.

NO MATTER WHICH ONE OF THEM WINS IN THE END,

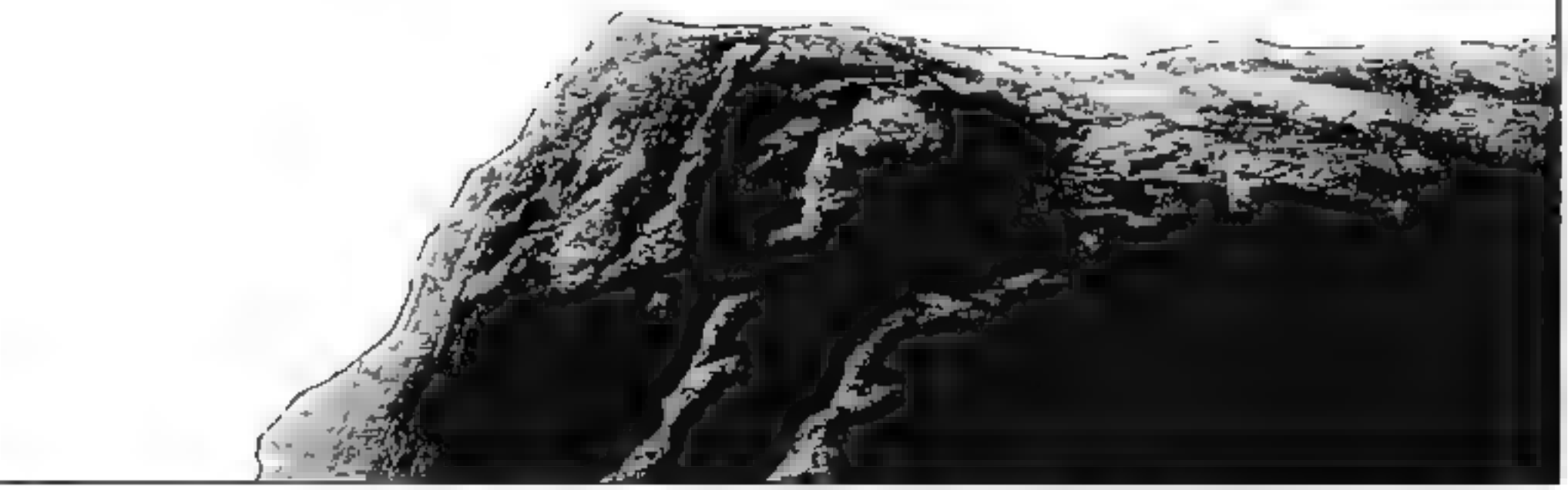
THROUGH THIS GAME OF SURPASS-ING THE LEADER,

KAKEROU WILL CHANGE

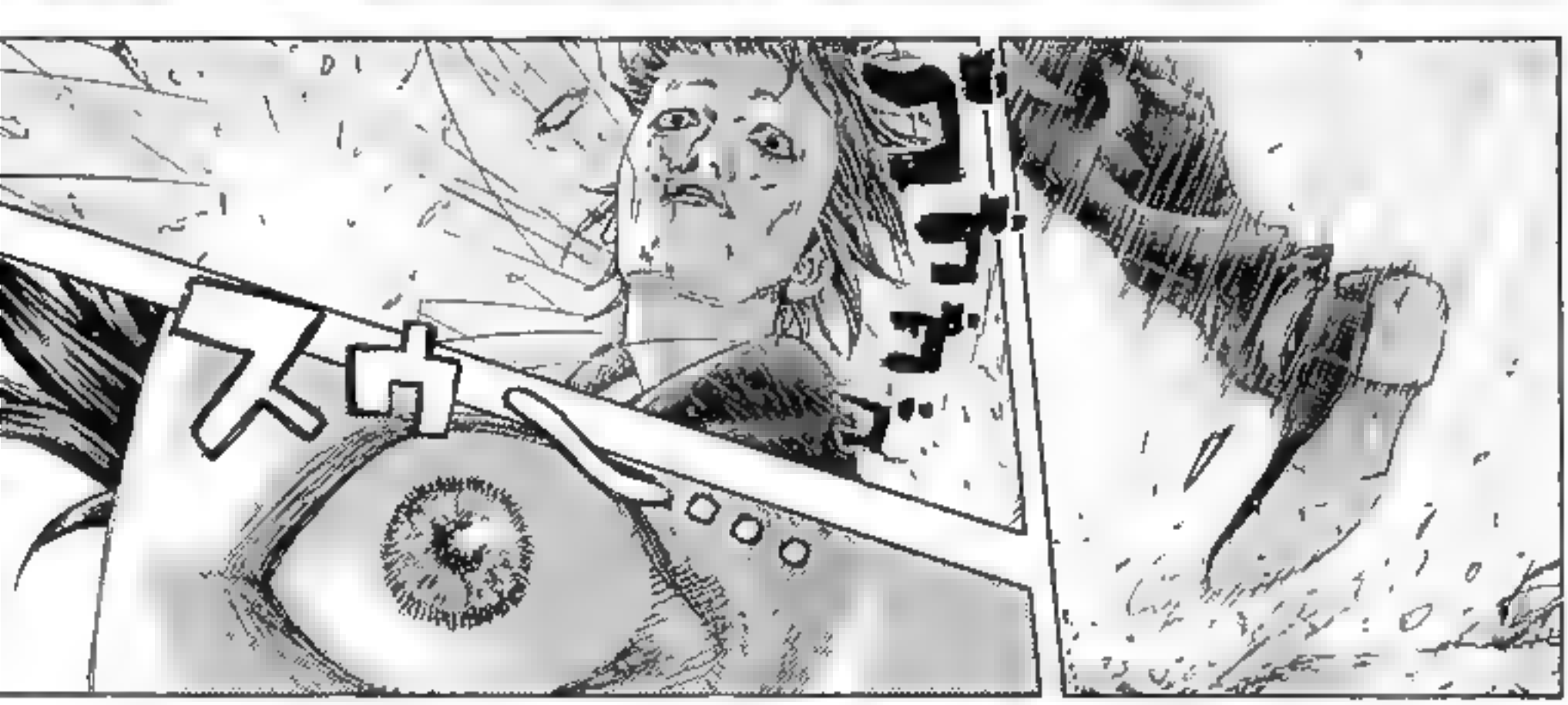
AND I WILL BE THE ONE TO LAY THOSE FOUNDATIONS.

SOMETHING NEW

WILL BE BORN.



"ONE HIT" AWAY FROM BEING SHOCKED!!
THEY ARE ALL
REFEREE KADOKURA,
REFEREE MANABE,
REFEREE MIDARA,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I JUST WANT TO PRESIDE

OVER THOSE TWO'S FIGHT.

MARCO WILLI

I
WILL
!!

...

ONE HIT

GOT IN...

12秒

CHAPTER 486

REFEREE KADOKURA

I WILL!!

CHAPTER 487
STRONGEST BARRIER

WHAT AN... INTERES-TING MAN...

HE'S SUDDENLY RISEN UP

TO THE SAME STAGE AS MINE...

REFEREE... KADOKURA YUUDAI...

I FORGOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

HOW-EVER...

HE TRANS-FORMED .....

THE MOMENT

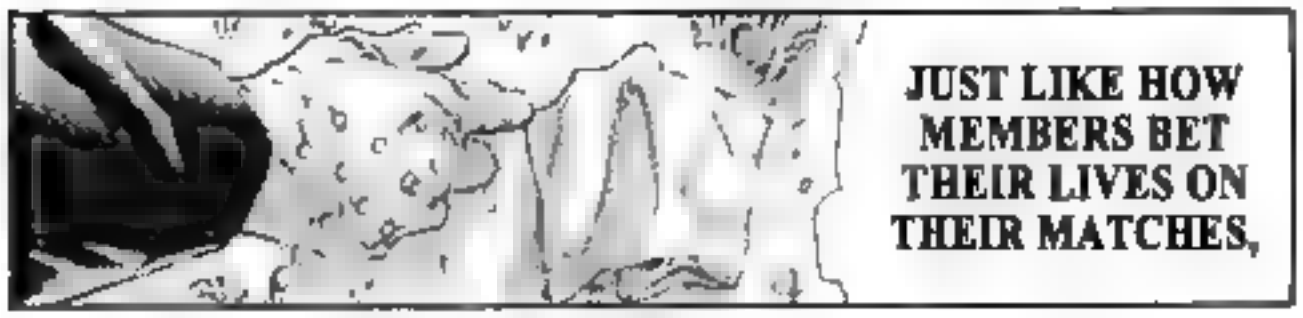
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

FOR THIS MAN TO COLLAPSE...

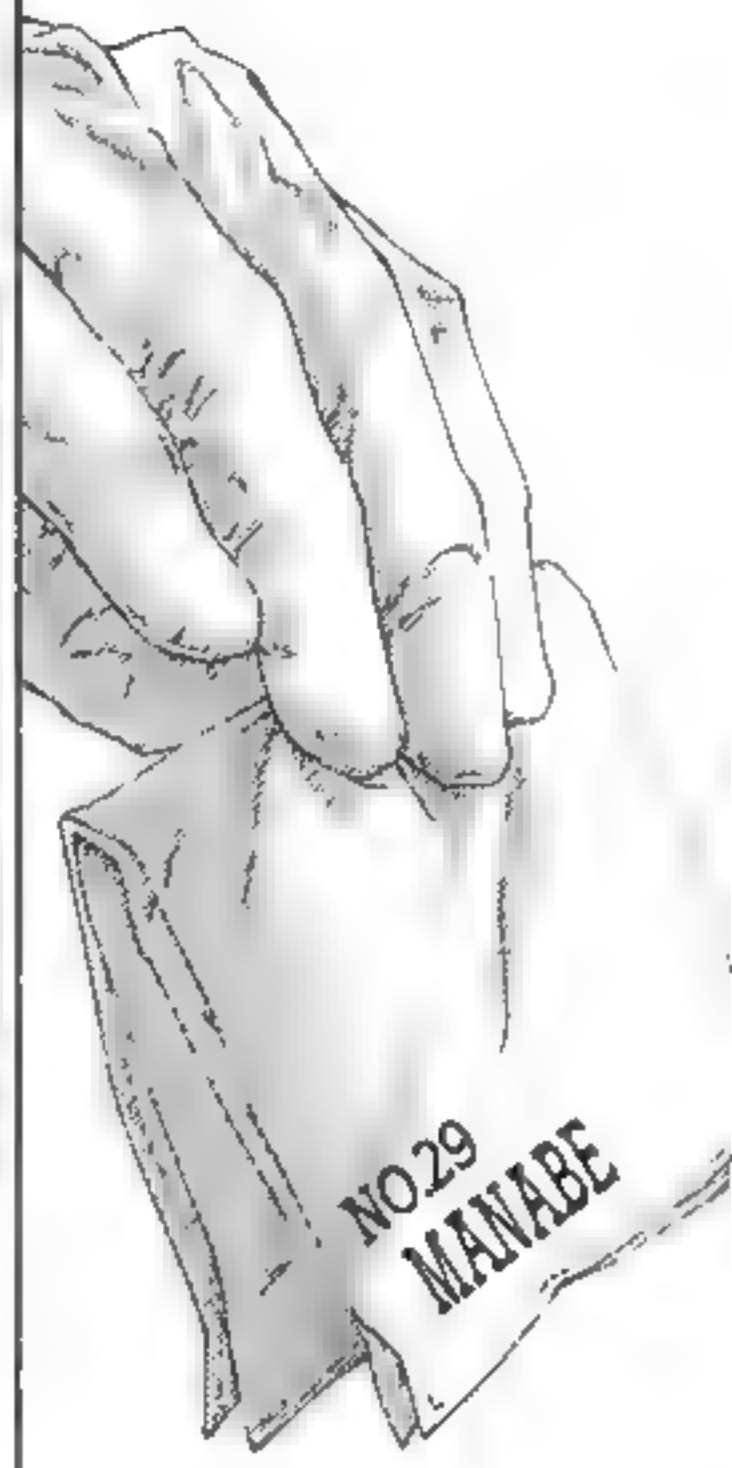
THE MAN WHO

BURIED MINOWA SEIICHI...

REFEREE KADOKURA YUUDAI...



THE REASON WHY I BECAME A REFEREE



IS NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO DOMINATE THE STRONG ONES...

KADOKURA WON...
HE'S COLLECTED MORE THAN HALF THE NUMBER OF HANDKERCHIEFS...
SHIT...

HE CAN WAIT UNTIL THE TIME RUNS OUT...

HU...

KU KU

AH HA

HA HA HA HA

HAAAHAHA

KU KU KU

WA HA HA HA

IN ORDER TO BECOME A STRONG ONE,

AND, IN ORDER TO BECOME THE MOST "SUITABLE ONE"...

YOU NEED TO CONQUER AND REPLACE THE STRONG ONES...

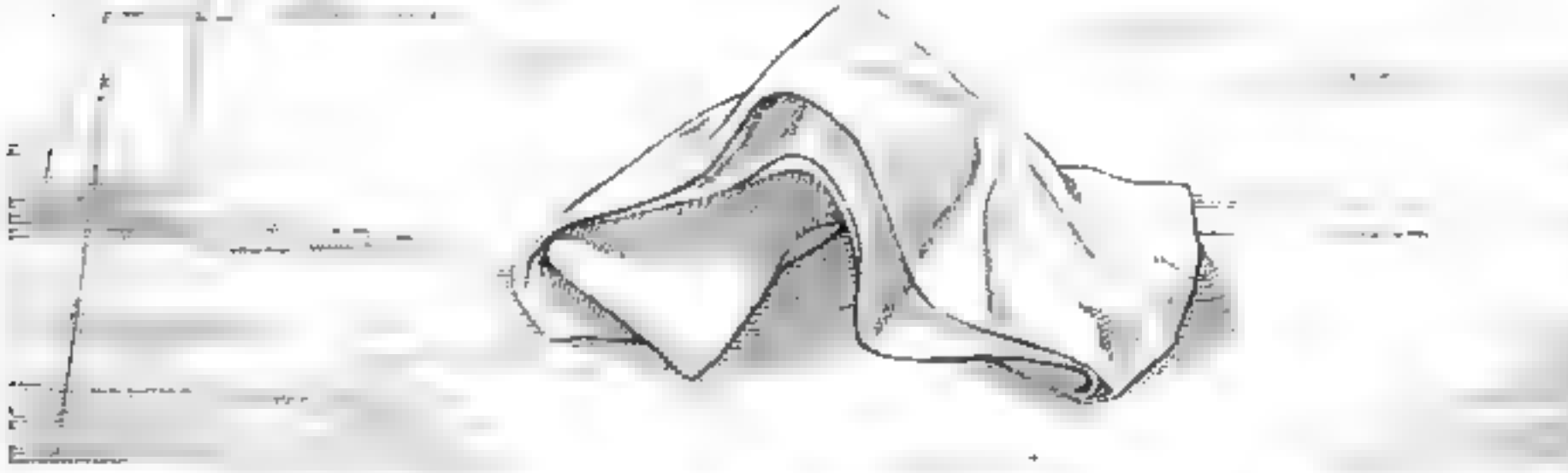
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

WA HA HA HA

YAKOU-SAN.

DROP

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.



IF ..
IF I LET
REFEREE
KADOKURA
GET AWAY
RIGHT NOW...

MARCO SAW EVERY-THING.

KADOKURA HAS REALIZED IT.

!

SAW WHAT?

CLACK

REFEREE KADOKURA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT

I KNOW!

FOR THIS "COLLECTING THE HANDKERCHIEFS" TO END

LISTEN ONCE THE TIME IS UP, THE WINNER WILL BE...

I KNOW!

KYARA...

WAITING IN FRONT OF THE MOST SUITABLE MAN FOR THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER", HUH...

INDEED,

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE.

RUSTLE

TO PUT AN END BETWEEN US~

THE FIRST

KICK...

DURING THE BATTLE BETWEEN YAKOU-OJISAN AND KADOKURA IN THE VERY BEGINNING,

MARCO SAW IT!!

NO.2 KADOKU

AT THAT TIME,

IS STILL IN THE POSSESSION OF YAKOU-OJISAN!

KADOKURA'S HANDKER-CHIEF THAT WAS TAKEN OUT OF HIS POCKET,

THE NORMAL HANDKER-CHIEF

THAT BAKU-NIICHAN GAVE YAKOU-OJISAN BEFORE!

HE HAD TAKEN IT BACK, BUT THAT WAS ACTUALLY...

KADO-KURA THOUGHT THAT

YES !!

MARCO... THE REASON WHY YOU STOPPED ME FROM ATTACKING KADOKURA WAS...

BOSS,

YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR QUALIFICATION YET SINCE YOU'RE HOLDING MY HANDKERCHIEF

LET KADOKURA FIGHT YAKOU-OJISAN AGAIN, MARCO COULDN'T HAVE HIM LOSE HERE!!

IN ORDER TO

BAKU-NIICHAN WANTS YAKOU-OJISAN TO PRESIDE THIS MATCH.

THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE ME.

YOU BEING THE REFEREE OF THIS MATCH.

I DON'T AGREE WITH

YOU BET YOUR CHANCE ON ME BOLDLY... AND YOU WON.

INCRE-DIBLE.

I'LL PROBABLY BE DEFEATED BY "THE OTHER REFEREES".

IT'S AS YOU SAID,

INDEED, I'M WOUNDED

AS I THOUGHT,

YOU ARE THE MOST SUITABLE REFEREE FOR THIS MATCH.

THOSE WORDS WERE NOT LIES...

FOR YOU, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN.

AND I

WILL DEFEAT YOU.

FOR THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER"!!

THE MOST "SUITABLE REFEREE",

AND THEN, I'LL FINALLY BECOME

HOW MANY BLOWS BEFORE THE "ELECTRIC SHOCK"?

ONE BLOW AWAY FOR EACH SIDE.

HOW MUCH TIME LEFT?

1 MINUTE.

HE DEFEATED MANABE. HE'LL WIN.

KADO-KURA.

WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?

...

BUT... KADOKURA'S HAND AND ARM ARE BADLY INJURED... IT'S HARD TO SAY.

KADO-KURA!!

REFEREE YAKOU!!

THEIR CONDI-TIONS ARE ALMOST THE SAME!!

ABOUT THE INJURIES, THE SAME GOES FOR YAKOU!!

WHAT'S INCREDIBLE IS THAT THEIR INJURIES ARE ON THE EXACT SAME SPOTS!

...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, FATHER-IN-LAW?

REFEREE YAKOU HAS MORE SP.

THE WINNER WILL BE...

KADO-KURA!!

TRANS-FORMED KADOKURA!

YAKOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY

KADOKURA IS NO LONGER THE KADOKURA FROM BEFORE...

YAKOU HAS MADE THE BEST CHOICE THAT HE COULD COME UP WITH...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE BEST CHOICE,

THE TOUGHEST "BARRIER"

FOR HIM TO GET OVER.

I'M AFRAID IT HAS ALSO BECOME

HE'S NOT HERE YET~ IT'S BEEN ABOUT 30 MINUTES, RIGHT?

...NOT YET, THERE ARE ABOUT 5 MINUTES LEFT

HUH...? HOW DO YOU KNOW? DID YOU BRING A CLOCK?

NO.

I ESTI MATED IT WITH MY BIOLOGICAL CLOCK.

BY THE WAY,

WHICH REFEREE DO YOU PREFER TO SHOW UP?

...

I WANT TO SEE YOU TWO HAVE.

THAT IS EXACTLY THE MATCH

CHAPTER.488

ABSOLUTE ZERO

NOO

THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN ACTION YET" THE ATMOSPHERE IS GETTING MORE AND MORE TENSE...

BUT THERE'S NO TIME!!

NO2 KAGONOBA

"HIS OWN HANDKERCHIEF" HELD BY THE OTHER WILL BE THE WINNER

THE ONE WHO TAKES BACK

OF THIS "COLLECTING THE HANDKERCHIEFS"!!

CHAPTER 488

ABSOLUTE ZERO

I ACKNOWLEDGE YOU ARE A SUITABLE REFEREE

FOR THIS "SURPASS-ING THE LEADER".

I TAKE MY WORDS BACK.

I CAN SENSE A SMELL SO OMINOUS... THAT IT MAKES ME INSTINCTIVELY WANT TO AVOID IT...

I CAN SEE IT...

WELL, THANK YOU...

A... 'A RANK-ING BATTLE !!'

10 SECONDS LEFT.

THE HORRI-FYING COLOR...

I CAN SEE IT...!

MY INTESTINES STARTED GETTING TWISTED JUST FROM MY HATE FOR YOU.

!!

NOW I KNOW HOW IT FEELS.

I ACKNOW-LEDGED YOU...

AS SOON AS I ACKNOW-LEDGED YOU...

MARCO... IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, REFEREE KADOKURA WOULD HAVE LOST AT THAT MOMENT.

AND NEITHER WOULD REFEREE YAKOU HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME IS, YOU'VE ACHIEVED AN "EXTRA-ORDINARY THING".

BY THE WAY... IN MY OPINION,

IF WE SAY REFEREE YAKOU USED THIS PLAN TO GET THROUGH THIS FAR IN THIS BATTLE,

...

IT'S ACTUALLY MORE LIKE THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE...

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK LIKE THAT...

"THAT'S HOW WEAK HE HAS BECOME"

.....

!!

HERE IT COMES...

THIS SMELL...

THIS HORRI-FYING COLOR...

IT'S THE SMELL... OF DEATH...

IT'S THE SAME SMELL AS THE SMELL COMING OUT FROM THERE!

I GOT IT...

I SEE...

I SEE DEATH APPROACHING...

SO HORRI-FY-ING.....

AS I THOUGHT —

YOU ARE HORRI-FYING...

!!

IT'S FILLING UP MY EYES... JUST LIKE IT'S GOING TO DEVOUR ME...

5

AND
I...

SUCH A HORRI-FYING YOU.

WILL REPLACE

A MATCH OF MIND GAMES.

A "PEAK" BATTLE, A "MIRACLE",

THAT I CAN NEVER PERFORM.

THAT IS EXACTLY THE MATCH I WANT TO SEE YOU TWO HAVE.

THE DOCTOR SAID "IT WON'T MOVE AGAIN".

IT'S STARTED NECROTIZING.

I SAID THAT THIS HAND "BARELY KEPT ITS FORM"...

IF ANY IMPACT DAMAGES THE FIXED ARTERIES, THE WORST SCENARIO IS THAT I'LL DIE.

THAT WASN'T EXAGGERATING... IT'S TRUE.

SUCH A SMALL THING IS ALL I CAN DO...

I USED THIS HAND WHICH SHOULDN'T BE USED ON THIS ISLAND... MORE AGGRESSIVELY THAN BEFORE...

DURING THAT DAY,

BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, BAKU-SAMA.

WILL TAKE OVER THE NO.0 POSTITION.

I HOPE YOU...

THE TV STATION, THE KARAMETE, THE TOWER... AND MAKING ME THE NO.0... THAT'S A MIRACLE.

PLEASE HURRY.

AT ANY COST.

I'LL WITNESS YOUR BATTLE TO THE END

HE DIDN'T LOSE HIS CONSCIOUS-NESS... BUT.

EXCUSE ME.

THIS IS NOT MY INTENT, BUT THERE'S NO TIME.

HE'S NOT LOOKING AT ME SOMETHING ELSE IS REFLECTED IN HIS EYES DUE TO THE SMOKE

REFEREE YAKOU.

I COR-RESPOND-INGLY, ALL I CAN DO IS TO USE THIS BODY...

MY LEGS... HANDS... EVERY-THING I HAVE... TO FIGHT WITH ALL MY MIGHT...

CHAPTER 489

THE MAN STANDING BETWEEN THE TWO

STANDING BACK UP,

LOS-ING,

AND TAKING.

STEAL-ING,

ON THE WAY HERE,

BLEED-ING,

FALL-ING,

I STILL...

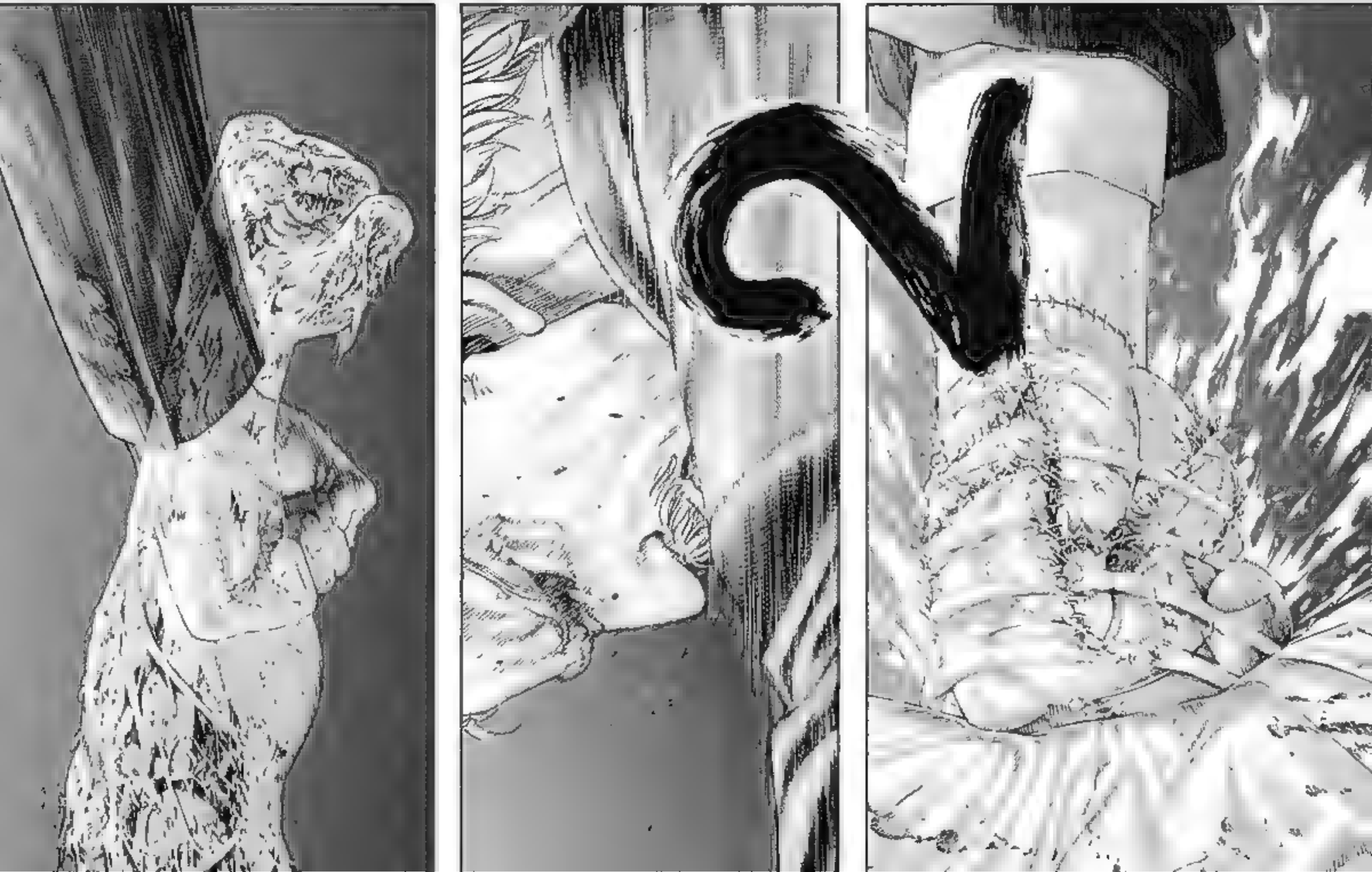
"AN INSTANT THAT CONTAINS EVERY-THING".

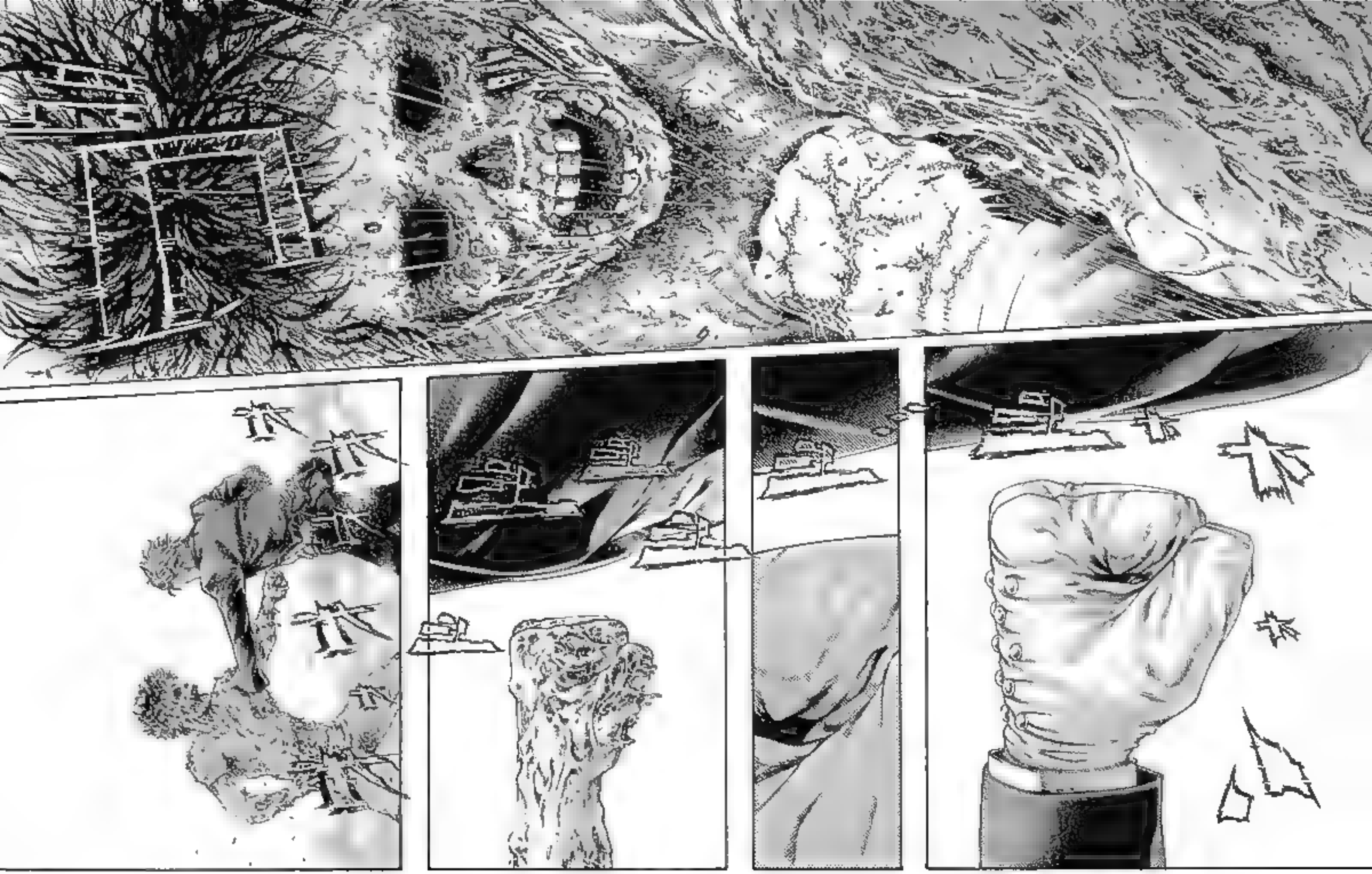
THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WILL END IN AN INSTANT...

COMPARED TO THIS PATH FULL OF OBSTACLES,

SUITABLE FOR PRESIDING THIS INSTANT.

CAN'T BE SAID TO BE





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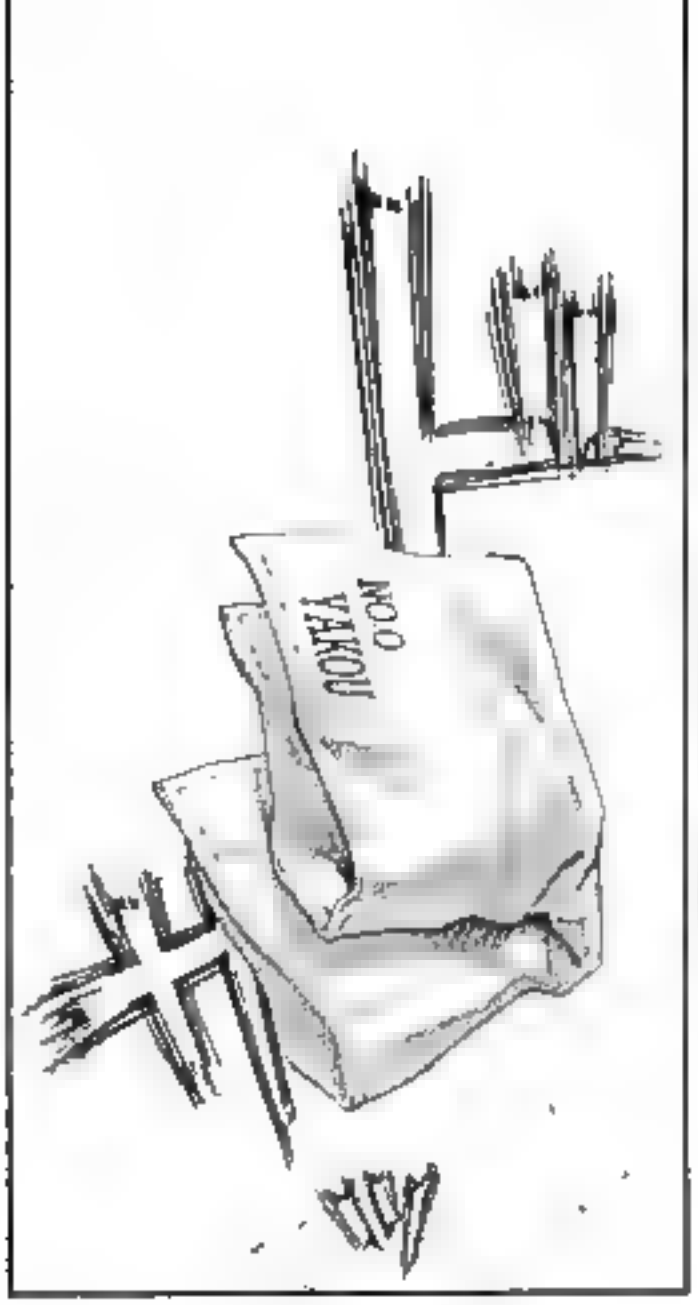
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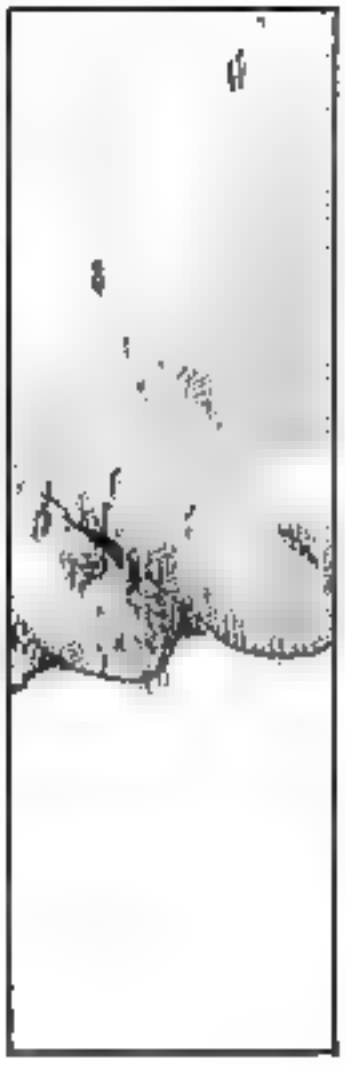
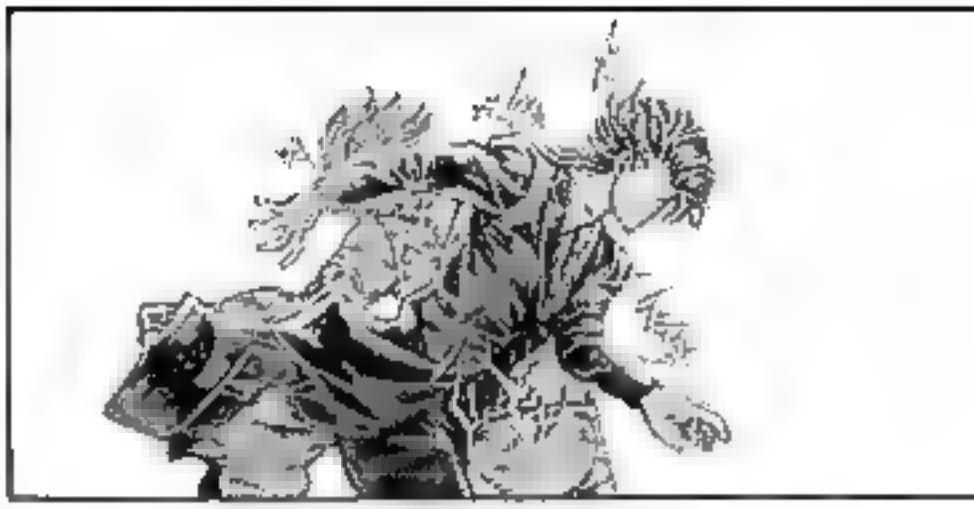
YAKOU





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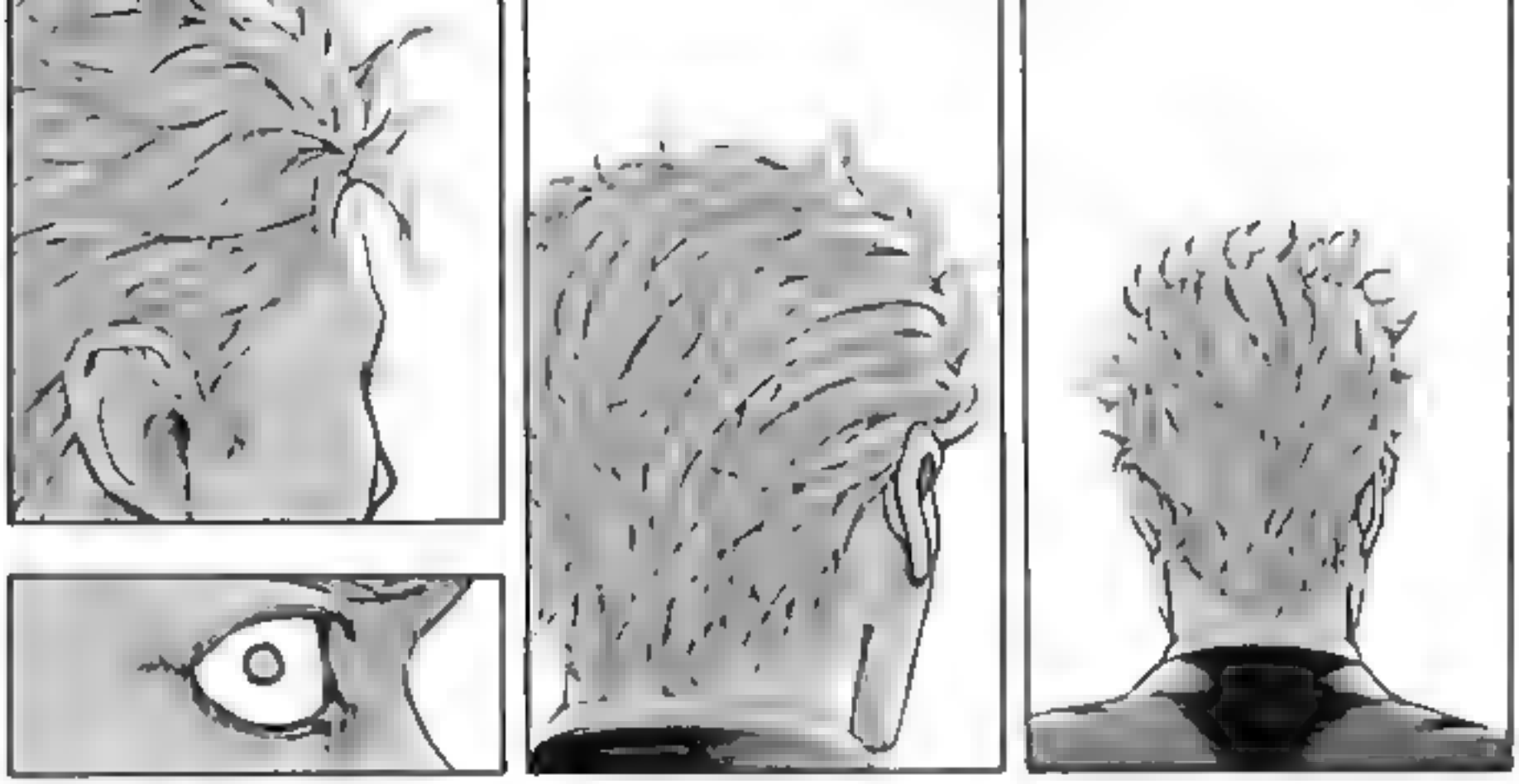


ALTHOUGH I WAS HOPING THAT THEY'D HAVE A TIE WHEN THE TIME WAS UP.

AND I'D BECOME THE WINNER SINCE I'M HOLDING MY OWN HANDKERCHIEF & OWN THE MOST. BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN...

!

HASN'T ENDED YET.

COLLAPSED PEOPLE

IT LOOKS MY JOURNEY OF LOOKING FOR

WONDER-FUL FIGHT.

EVERY REFEREE HERE HAS WITNESSED THIS FIGHT.

TO BURY HIM PROPERLY.

BY HIM.

THIS WIN WAS GIVEN TO ME...!

IT'S ABOUT TIME

I SAW KYARA... STANDING IN FRONT OF ME...

WHAT... WAS THAT...!?

YAKOU, YOU ARE THE WINNER

OF THIS "COLLECTING THE HANDKER-CHIEFS".

NEITHER KYARA...

NOR REFEREE YAKOU...

I WASN'T ABLE TO REPLACE...

DID I...

LOSE ...?

!

REFEREE YAKOU,

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

I WILL

LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

I WAS MEANT TO LOSE IN THE FIRST BATTLE,

BUT THANKS TO YOU... I FELT MYSELF AGAIN.

GO.

FULFILL YOUR DUTY... AND OURS, REFEREE YAKOU.

THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER".

A BATTLE OF DESTINY

BETWEEN YOU TWO,

"AN INSTANT THAT CONTAINS EVERYTHING".

I STILL CAN'T BE SAID TO BE SUITABLE FOR PRESIDING THIS INSTANT.

"LEADER"... THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE.

WILL BE HELD UNDER THE HOSTING OF KAKEROU REFEREE,

YAKOU HIKOICHI.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T HEAR THE CLOCK TICKING,

TIME WILL GO ON.

tick

tick

EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE THE HANDS MOVING,

THE RESULT OF A BATTLE WILL BE TURNED INTO AN ETERNAL FACT...

AS TIME GOES BY,

THE PAST WILL TURN INTO FACTS, AS IT ALWAYS DOES, AND WILL NEVER DISAP-PEAR...

CHAPTER 490

WITHIN THE PASSAGE OF TIME

3 MEN ARE ENOUGH.

FOR THIS BATTLE,

A HERETICAL BLOODLINE THAT ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE.

A GAMBLER WHO BETS TO WIN..

THE MATCH.

A REFEREE WHO DOMINATES AND COORDINATES

WHEN AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS,

AND FEARFUL AT THE SAME TIME

FOR THOSE TWO, THE REFEREE IS RELIABLE

DIRECTLY INFLUENCE THEIR FATES:..

THE REFEREE'S DECISION WILL

IT'S NOT ONLY BECAUSE REFEREES ARE PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS STAND BESIDE PERFECTION...

BUT THEY STILL ENTRUST THEMSELVES TO THE REFEREE WITHOUT QUESTION.

THE REFEREE WHO PRESIDES IT HAS ALSO BET HIS EVERYTHING...

IN THIS BATTLE FOR WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE BET THEIR ALL,

THOSE TWO KNOW CLEARLY THAT

THEY ALL KNOW

THAT THIS IS A BATTLE BETWEEN THE THREE OF THEM...

CHAPTER 490

WITHIN THE PASSAGE OF TIME

THIS FLOOR ISN'T THE VENUE, WE'RE GOING TO THE TOP THROUGH THE STAIRS.

THIS WAY.

!

HACHINA.

BAKU-SAN.

YOU'RE SO LATE, I ALMOST DOZED OFF.

HACHINA, WHEN DID YOU LEAVE THE ROOM!?

YOU CAN'T WANDER AROUND WHEN YOUR HEALTH IS IN THAT STATE!

YOU FINALLY ARRIVED...

I HOPE THE CELEVER CREEP KAJI-CHAN CAN STAY BY MY SIDE AS USUAL.

WHICH MEANS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWER.

KAJI CHAN, I'LL MEET HIM AT THAT TOWER.

!?

THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" ALLOWS ONLY THE REFEREE TO WATCH.

NO.

I ENTERED THIS ROOM A STEP LATER THAN KAJI. WE ENTERED THE ROOM SEPARATELY.

LIKE HE SAID,

WE WEREN'T ALWAYS TOGETHER.

AND AFTER THAT?

HAVE YOU TWO BEEN HERE TOGETHER THIS WHOLE TIME?

I...

BA-BAKU-SAN...

I WILL NOT MOVE MY SIGHT AWAY...

THIS IS THE FINAL BATTLE...

WE'VE FINALLY REACHED THE END...

THIS IS THE BATTLE THAT BAKU-SAN HAS BEEN SEEKING...

BAKU-SAN'S DREAMED BATTLE...

OTHER THAN THE REFEREE,

EVEN YOU TWO ARE IRRELEVANT.

PLEASE LEAVE.

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE...

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

WE INSPECTED THIS PLACE THROUGH THE DEVELOPER'S HELP A FEW DAYS AGO... IT CAN BE USED AS THE VENUE FOR "SURPASSING THE LEADER".

PARDON MY TRANSGRESSION, BUT I HAVE CONSIDERED WHAT GAME I SHOULD PROPOSE.

YES.

SO THIS IS THE TOP...

I'VE CONTACTED AMEN. THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT SHOULD ARRIVE SOON.

IT'S BEEN DECIDED.

...GAME?

IT'S A TRUE GAMBLE THAT COMPLETELY IMMERSES THE PLAYERS.

THIS IS THE GAME I WANT TO SEE YOU TWO PLAY THE MOST.

ARE VERY SIMPLE.

THE RULES

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THERE'S NO GAME WITHOUT LUCK INVOLVED.

VICTORY DEPENDS ON THE LUCK OF THE DAY.

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES,

"LEADER".

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT.

PLEASE.

NO,
I CAN'T.

COULD YOU SEE MY SHADOW NEAR YOUR FEET?

PLEASE CONCENTRATE TO READ MY ACTIONS

IN OTHER WORDS, TO KNOW MY ACTIONS BEHIND YOU,

THE LIGHTS N THIS ROOM ARE OPERATING LIGHTS. MY SHADOW WON'T SHOW.

"YOU HAVE TO READ MY MIND WITHOUT LOOKING".

I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE STILL A CHILD.

!

THROWING YOURSELF AT IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGES.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SEEKING "GREATNESS"

YOU BEAR A MUCH MORE SINFUL BLOODLINE THAN US REFEREES.

WITHOUT A CARE OF WHAT WE MAY THINK, WHO TREAT YOU AS OUR OWN CHILD, YOU RISK YOUR LIFE.

TRANS-FORMING.

IF YOU LOSE... IF I HAVE TO TAKE YOUR LIFE...

BUT ALL I CAN DO IS PRESIDE.

THAT MEANS I'LL BECOME THE MURDERER OF BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON.

!

I BELIEVE YOU'VE REALIZED MOST OF IT FROM THE FACT THAT I BECAME NO 0... ALTHOUGH IT'S TOO LATE, ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU.

...

AND I TOOK HIS LIFE...

YOUR FATHER, KIRUMA TATSUKI, AND I, FOUGHT FOR THE NUMBER ZERO

I HAVE TOLD YOU,

PLEASE CONCEN-TRATE... RIGHT?

...

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTU NITY TO TELL YOU.

!

NO.0 YAKOU

WITHIN THE UNSTOPPABLE PASSAGE OF TIME,

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN THIS MATCH IF YOU CAN'T SPECULATE THE TIME WHEN THE HANDKERCHIEF WILL FALL.

THE BASIS OF THIS GAME IS...

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHICH MEANS...

WILL FALL...

SPECULATING WHEN THE HANDKERCHIEF

DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF

THIS IS

A GAME CREATED BY ME...

CHAPTER_491

SQUANDERING AND DEATH

THE GAME FOR THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER".

AND IT IS

CHAPTER 491
SQUANDERING AND DEATH

"DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF"

IS A RENOWNED CHILD'S GAME PLAYED WITH MULTIPLE PLAYERS.

OTHERS SIT IN A CIRCLE AND FACE INWARD

"IT" CIRCLES AROUND THE OUTSIDE AND DROPS THE HANDKERCHIEF.

ONE PLAYER PLAYS AS "IT".

"DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF".

IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE DIFFERENCES IN REGION AND ERA; THERE ARE VARIOUS LOCALIZED RULES.

THE ONE WHO HAD THE HANDKERCHIEF DROPPED DIRECTLY BEHIND THEM HAS TO GET UP AND RUN AFTER "IT"

WHAT KIND OF THING DID YOU TWO THINK OF?

UPON HEARING THAT THE GAME FOR SURPASSING THE LEADER WAS "DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF",

JUST IN CASE, DO YOU TWO KNOW THIS GAME?

"SURPASSING THE LEADER" BE?

WHAT WILL THE GAME FOR

YAKOU SAN.

A MIND GAME? HOW IS THE GAME... PLAYED?

FIND THE HANDKERCHIEF? AND THE RULES?

DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF?

AND THEN?

HANGM
DOTTY
DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF
AID

BRING ME... VICTORY ...?

WILL THIS GAME

IT CAN BE PLAYED BY MULTIPLE PLAYERS.

THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND THE CONTENTS OF THIS GAME ARE QUITE FREE.

BUT "SURPASSING THE LEADER" IS A ONE VS ONE MATCH, SO WE'RE GOING TO PLAY IT WITH 2 PLAYERS.

LET ME EXPLAIN THE RULES.

NOW,

"C" (CHECK)

THE ONE WHO CHECKS IS CALLED

YOU TWO WILL TAKE TURNS PLAYING THESE 2 ROLES.

THE ONE WHO DROPS THE HAND-KERCHIEF IS CALLED

"D" (DROP)

WILL HAVE TO GUESS WHEN "D" WILL DROP IT AND TURN HIS HEAD TO CHECK IF THE HANDKERCHIEF IS INDEED DROPPED.

"C"

DROPS THE HANDKER-CHIEF.

"D"

"C" WINS.

!

IF THE HANDKERCHIEF HAS BEEN DROPPED WHEN "C" TURNS,

THEN "C" WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE.

BY ACCEPTING THE PENALTY.

"C" LOSES.

BUT IF THE HANDKERCHIEF HASN'T BEEN DROPPED.

AFTER YOU TAKE TURNS PLAYING AS "C" AND "D".

THAT'S "ONE ROUND".

D

DROP-PING

DROPPING THE HANDKER-CHIEF AS "D".

TURNING AROUND TO CHECK AS "C".

C

TURN-ING

THERE ARE ONLY

2 ACTIONS FOR YOU TO TAKE.

HOWEVER, SIMPLY MAKING THE SPECULATION IS TOO OBSCURE...

THAT'D MAKE THIS GAME DEPEND MORE ON "LUCK" THAN "SPECULATION".

YOU CAN SAY THAT "D" IS THE "OFFENSE",

"C" IS THE "DEFENSE".

WHETHER THE HANDKER-CHIEF HAS BEEN DROPPED OR NOT.

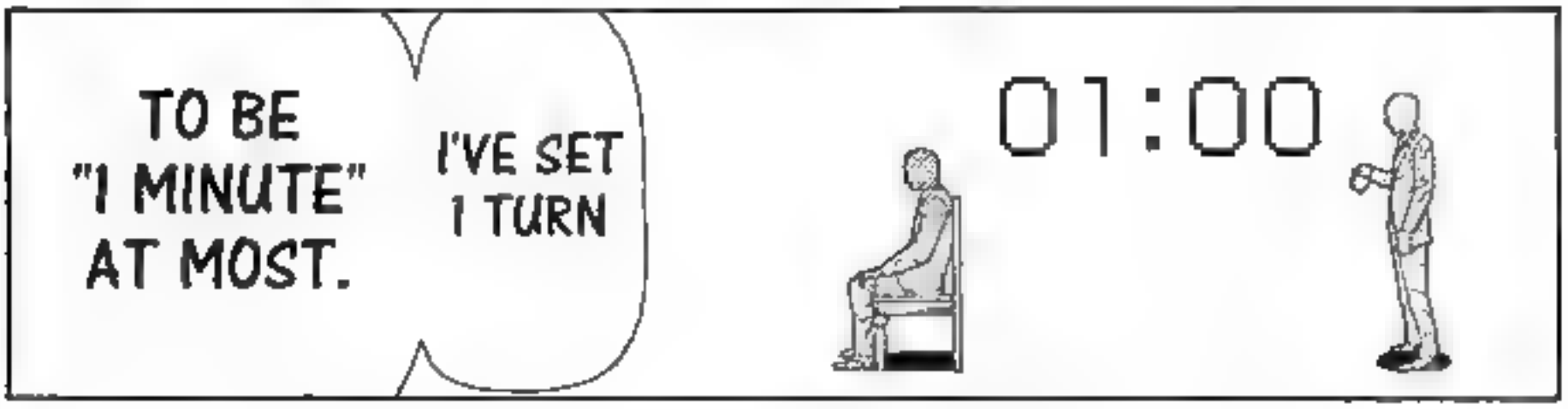
YOU HAVE TO SPECULATE

MAKING IT A MARVELOUS MINDGAME.

SO OF COURSE, WE'LL ADD MORE RULES TO THIS SIMPLE GAME.

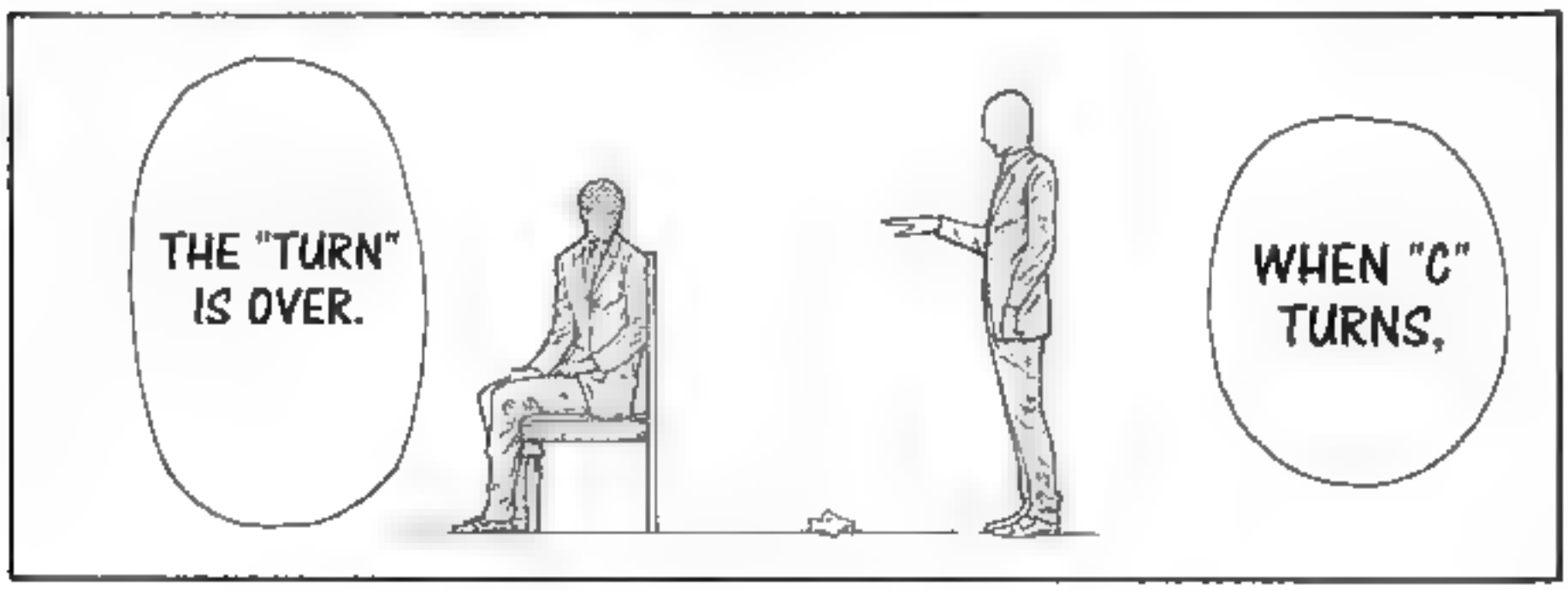
WHAT I'M EAGER TO SEE IS A MINDGAME PLAYED BY VETERAN SPECIALISTS.

ONE OF THEM IS... A "TIME LIMIT".
...


TO BE "1 MINUTE" AT MOST.
I'VE SET 1 TURN
01:00

MUST "TURN HIS HEAD TO CHECK".
AND "C"

DURING WHICH, "D" MUST "DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF".


THE "TURN" IS OVER.
WHEN "C" TURNS,

WHETHER THE HANDKERCHIEF IS DROPPED OR NOT...

AT THAT TIME,

WITHIN ONE MINUTE,

IN WHAT WAY DO YOU DROP IT,

IN WHAT WAY DO YOU CHECK IT,

THAT'S THE MINDGAME YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY.

AND HOW FAST YOU CAN NOTICE THE HANDKERCHIEF THAT HAS BEEN DROPPED

IT'S A GAME OF HOW LONG YOU CAN HAVE THE HANDKERCHIEF STAY ON THE FLOOR WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

THANK YOU.

I BROUGHT THESE... FROM THE SUBMARINE.

PLEASE LAY THEM THERE.

MUCH APPRECIATED.

GOOD LUCK, *LEADER.

BYE~

*ARAHATA SAYS "OYAKATA-SAMA" THIS TIME.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT...

SLAM

I'LL BE THE ONE TIMING THEM.

AND THE "SQUANDERED TIME", WHICH IS THE TIME GAP BETWEEN WHEN THE HANDKERCHIEF IS DROPPED AND WHEN IT IS CHECKED.

THE "ONE MINUTE",

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT THAT "SQUANDERED TIME" MEANS...

THEN JUST TELL US

I AM NOT PUTTING ON AIRS IN THE SLIGHTEST.

HOW PRETENTIOUS.

THE PAST AND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU TWO... BUT,

I DON'T KNOW

I AM NOT PUTTING ON AIRS .

I JUST NEED SOME MENTAL PREPAR-ATION.

YOU WANT TO PUT AN END TO IT. I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.

REGARDLESS OF YOUR RELATION-SHIP...

NO,

EXACTLY BECAUSE YOU TWO SHARE THIS RIVALRY.

WERE DRAWN TO EACH OTHER SO MUCH THAT YOU WANT TO DEFEAT THE OTHER EVEN IF YOU'LL HAVE TO BET YOUR LIVES ON IT.

I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU TWO

IN THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WHERE YOU BET EVERYTHING,

I HAVE THE RESOLUTION TO TAKE THE LOSER'S LIFE...

BUT,

I THINK IT'S BEST THAT

ス...

YOU TWO PUT AN END TO EVERYTHING IN THIS GAME.

THAT DOES NOT FIT THIS MATCH.

A TASTELESS DEATH GAME WITH VISUAL CRUELTY IS GOOD.

I DON'T THINK

THE TIME OF THE HANDKERCHIEF LAYING ON THE FLOOR...

WILL BE STOPPED FOR THE SAME DURATION AS A PENALTY.

C'S LIFE

TOI

IS THE TIME OF C'S FAILURE TO READ D'S THOUGHTS... IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S "THE TIME HE'S SITTING IDLE AND LETTING THE TIME PASS".

FOR THIS ACCUMU-LATED "SQUANDERED TIME".

AND HEARTBEAT WILL BOTH BE STOPPED.

ONE'S BREATHING

LIFE...?

THIS IS

A NEAR-DEATH GAME.

CHAPTER 402
NEAR-DEATH GAME

A NEAR-DEATH

GAME...

YOU'D KNOW IT MEANS "LINGERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH".

IF YOU LOOK UP "NEAR-DEATH",

MEDICALLY SPEAKING, "NEAR-DEATH" DOESN'T EXIST.

DEATH IS CHARACTER IZED AS

BRAIN DEATH AND CARDIAC DEATH IN MEDICAL TERMS.

THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE NEAR-DEATH STATE IN THIS GAME.

IT'S NOT

OVER EXAGGERATING AT ALL.

ONCE

YOU TWO WILL DIE.

OR

TWICE... OR THREE TIMES...

ARE CUSTOMIZED CYLINDER CONTAINERS.

THESE 2 IDENTICAL DEVICES

THIS IS THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG.

WILL LEAD YOU TWO TO DEATH.

THIS DRUG

IT'S MADE OF POTASSIUM CHLORIDE USING A SPECIAL METHOD.

THIS NEAR-DEATH DRUG WILL FLOW TO YOUR HEART THROUGH YOUR BLOOD, AND THEN SPREAD THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY.

ALTHOUGH THERE S INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCE, FOR A GROWN MAN, IT TAKES EFFECT IN 10 SECONDS

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT BRAIN DEATH,

NOW,

I'LL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS.

WILL STOP.

YOUR CARDIOVAS-CULAR SYSTEM

THIS WILL CAUSE THE NEAR DEATH DRUG TO START DRIPPING.

THEN I'LL START TIMING.

HE DROPS THE HANDKERCHIEF WITHIN 1 MINUTE.

ASSUME THAT BAKU SAMA PLAYS FIRST AS "D".

WE ASSUME THAT LEADER CHECKED 30 SECONDS AFTER THE HANDKERCHIEF IS DROPPED.

"C" SUCCEEDS.

LEADER TURNS HIS HEAD AND FINDS THE HANDKERCHIEF.

WILL BE ACCUMULATED IN THE CYLINDER CONTAINER.

THEN THE "SQUANDERED TIME" WILL BE 30 SECONDS.

AN AMOUNT OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG CORRESPONDING TO 30 SECONDS

IF "C" SUCCEEDS,

DEATH WILL BE ACCUMULATED WITHOUT HAPPENING.

"ACCUMU-LATING".

BUT THIS IS JUST

IT'S LEADER'S TURN TO PLAY AS "D".

NEXT,

THE HANDKERCHIEF HASN'T BEEN DROPPED.

!

BUT HE FAILS.

BAKU-SAMA, AS "C", TURNS HIS HEAD.

RIGHT AFTER THAT, IT'LL BE

THEN THE PENALTY WILL BE TRIGGERED.

FOR BAKU-SAMA'S CONTAINER,

"1 MINUTE" OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG WILL BE ADDED.

INJECTED INTO HIS VEINS.

10 SECONDS AFTER THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG IS INJECTED,

IT TAKES EFFECT.

PASSING OUT,

HE'LL DIE IF WE LEAVE HIM BE.

HE'LL FALL INTO A COMA. HIS BODY CANNOT FUNCTION BECAUSE OF LACK OF OXYGEN.

I'LL START TIMING THE 1 MINUTE NEAR DEATH TIME.

AFTER I CONFIRM THAT HIS PULSE HAS STOPPED,

THE HEART STOPS BEATING.

WITH THIS,

BAKU-SAMA IS DEAD.

I'LL INJECT THE "REVIVAL DRUG"

TO RESTART THE HEART.

00:00

AFTER THE 1 MINUTE PENALTY PASSES,

IT'S SPECIALLY MADE TO REVIVE THE PERSON

WHOSE HEART IS STOPPED BY THE NEAR DEATH DRUG.

THIS LIQUID, COMPOSED MAINLY OF ADRENALINE, IS AN "ANTIDOTE" TO THE "NEAR DEATH DRUG".

I WON'T KEEP DOING CPR UNTIL YOU REVIVE.

BUT...

I'LL STOP IT AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME.

I'LL DO CPR SIMULTAN-EOUSLY.

AFTER INJECTING THE REVIVING DRUG,

AFTER YOU ARE REVIVED,

WE'LL CONTINUE THE GAME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I SET THE NUMBER OF CHEST COMPRES-SIONS

HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT BEING ABLE TO COME BACK IS NOT LOW.

YOU HAVE A DECENT CHANCE TO BE REVIVED.

STATISTI CALLY SPEAKING, WITHIN THE FIRST MINUTE OF CARDIO-PULMONARY FAILURE,

IN THAT CASE,

YOU'LL LOSE DUE TO NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE THE MATCH.

TO 15 TIMES, AND THAT'LL TAKE ABOUT 10 SECONDS.

IN OTHER WORDS,

THE WORD NEAR DEATH HAS ANOTHER MEANING... "ONE IS REVIVED AFTER BEING IDENTIFIED AS DEAD"...

NEAR-DEATH MEANS

TO BE DEAD...

WHAT A FEARFUL MAN THAT YAKOU IS...

WHAT A GAME HE CAME UP WITH...

A... NEAR-DEATH GAME...?

NEAR-DEATH MEANS TO BE DEAD...

IN OTHER WORDS,

...

NOT NECESSARILY SO.

YOU'LL FIND THE HANDKERCHIEF IF YOU CAN READ "D'S" THOUGHTS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE CONTAINER ISN'T LIMITLESS.

THE AMOUNT OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG STORED ACCORDING TO THE "SQUANDERED TIME"...

INDEED.

REFEREE YAKOU, YOU SAID... THE DRUG WILL BE "ACCUMULATED", RIGHT?

AND IF YOU KEEP WINNING AS "C",

THEN YOU CAN AVOID BEING INJECTED WITH THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG, RIGHT?

5 MINUTES IS THE LIMIT.

EXCEED-ING THIS,

YOU'LL BE INJECTED WITH ALL OF IT,

AND DIE.

EVEN WITHOUT ANY LONG-LASTING SIDE EFFECTS.

I'VE ALSO HEARD OF LUCKY CASES OF REVIVAL AFTER BEING DEAD FOR OVER 20 MINUTES.

BEING REVIVED AFTER A LONG TIME OF CARDIOPULMONARY FAILURE IS NOT UNCOMMON.

5 MINUTES... QUITE A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF TIME TO REVIVE FROM...

YOU'LL DEFINITELY REGRET IT.

BUT IF YOU'RE EXPECTING THAT TO HAPPEN,

THE REVIVIAL DRUG ISN'T OMNIPOTENT EITHER... IT'LL BE MASSIVELY AFFECTED BY THE AMOUNT OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG AND THE TIME OF NEAR-DEATH.

PLEASE ABANDON ANY NAIVE EXPECT ATIONS.

THE REVIVAL METHOD IS LIMITED TO CPR.

THERE WON'T BE ANY LUCKY SURVIVORS.

THIS KIND OF CARDIOPULMONARY FAILURE IS TRIGGERED BY THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG...

IT'S A CONTRIVED STATE CREATED BY DRUGS.

PLEASE TREAT A TIME OF OVER 5 MINUTES OF NEAR-DEATH

AS NOT BEING ABLE TO BE REVIVED.

WITH THE DENSITY OF THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG IN YOUR BODY RISING, THE DIFFICULTY OF REVIVING WILL RISE TOO.

THE SITUATION WHERE YOU FACE NEAR DEATH FOR MORE THAN 5 MINUTES TOTAL ACROSS MULTIPLE TIMES.

THE SAME GOES FOR

THE NUMBER OF TIMES YOU CAN BE REVIVED IS LIMITED,

DURING WHICH, WILL YOU OPEN YOUR EYES AND RETURN TO THE WORLD.

YOU CAN STILL HOPE TO BE REVIVED FOR THE 1ST OR 2ND NEAR DEATH.

BUT IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR THE 3RD AND 4TH.

OR WILL YOU EMBRACE THE EXPECTATION OF BEING REVIVED

AND PASS AWAY IN THE DREAM...

EVERY-THING.

THAT'S THIS KAKEROU MATCH,

WILL BE DETERMINED BY THIS HANDKERCHIEF.

"DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF".

NOTHING.

NO,

?

WHAT'S WRONG, OOFUNA-SAN?

I KNOW...

I UNDERSTAND, BAKU-SAN.

BAKU-SAN,

WHY?

WHY...

WHY WOULD YOU DUEL THAT MAN, HACHINA...?

THAT'S ALL...

YOU WANT TO DEFEAT THE STRONGEST MAN.

YOU WANT TO WIN...

CHAPTER 493

SOUND OF TIME

KAKEROU MATCH

DROP THE HAND-KER-CHIEF

GENERAL RULES

1. THE ONE WHO DROPS THE HANDKERCHIEF IS "D". THE ONE WHO CHECKS THE HANDKERCHIEF IS "C". BOTH PLAYERS TAKE TURNS PLAYING EACH ROLE.
2. A TURN IS LIMITED TO 1 MINUTE. DURING THAT TIME, "D" AND "C" HAVE TO "DROP" AND "CHECK" ONCE.
3. IF "C" FINDS THE HANDKERCHIEF, "C" WINS. OTHERWISE, "C" LOSES.

NEAR-DEATH

1. AFTER INJECTING THE "NEAR-DEATH DRUG" AND CONFIRMING THAT THE HEART HAS STOPPED, START TIMING THE "SQUANDERED TIME".
2. AFTER THE "SQUANDERED TIME" IS UP, INJECT THE "REVIVAL DRUG" INTO THE VEINS AND START CPR FOR 10 SECONDS.
3. AFTER REVIVING "C", THE MATCH WILL CONTINUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF "C" FAILS

ADD ONE MINUTE OF "NEAR-DEATH DRUG" INTO THE CYLINDER CONTAINER, AND THEN EMPTY OUT THE CONTAINER AND INJECT IT ALL INTO THE VEIN.

VIOLATION OF THE RULES

THE FOLLOWING ACTS WILL BE TREATED AS "UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE MATCH", AND LOSE.

1. COMMITTING ANY VIOLENT ACTS OR DAMAGING TO THE DEVICES.
2. NOT "DROPPING" OR "CHECKING" WITHIN 1 MINUTE.
3. ANY ACTION THAT STALLS THE GAME.
4. NOT FOLLOWING THE REFEREE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

THE WINNING CONDITION

THE OPPONENT CAN'T CONTINUE THE GAME.

IF "C" SUCCEEDS

1. THE TIME BEFORE THE HANDKERCHIEF IS FOUND IS CALLED "SQUANDERED TIME". AN AMOUNT OF "NEAR-DEATH DRUG" EQUIVALENT TO THE "SQUANDERED TIME" WILL BE ADDED TO "C'S" CYLINDER CONTAINER.
2. IF THE CYLINDER CONTAINER IS FILLED UP TO THE MAX CAPACITY OF 5 MINUTES, IT'LL BE INJECTED INTO THE VEINS IMMEDIATELY.

THOSE ARE ALL THE RULES.

CHAPTER 493
SOUND OF TIME

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

I MADE THE GAME SO THAT IT'S EASY TO LINK TO THE NAME "DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF".

NOT BAD. IT'S SIMPLE BUT QUITE DEEP.

CAN THE "SQUANDERED TIME" BE "0 SECONDS"?

I HAVE A QUESTION.

IN THIS "DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF" GAME, I'M ONLY IN CHARGE OF EXECUTING THE PENALTY, "NEAR-DEATH".

IN OTHER WORDS, IF A "PERFECT CHECKING" IS ACHIEVED, WILL THE "NEAR-DEATH DRUG" NOT BE ACCUMULATED?

IF THESE TWO ACTIONS ARE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY, WILL THE "SQUANDERED TIME" BE "0 SECONDS"?

"DROP-PING",

AND "CHECK-ING",

IT WILLL ACCUMULATE AT LEAST 1 SECOND...

EVEN IF YOU ACHIEVE A "PERFECT CHECK",

I'LL PRESS THE BUTTON CONNECTED TO THE CONTAINER, AND START TIMING THE "SQUANDERED TIME".

AFTER THE HANDKER CHIEF LANDS,

UNFORTUN-ATELY,

0 SECONDS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

THIS MATCH CAN BE DETERMINED BY EVEN 1 SECOND.

IT'S A GAME OF PRECISION.

WHAT ABOUT US?

REFEREE YAKOU, YOU CAN TIME WITH YOUR WATCH.

YES.

MAGICIAN'S CHOICE...?

LET SOMEONE ELSE ASK SOMETHING YOU WANT TO ASK, AND MANIPULATE IT INTO THE SCENARIO YOU WANT IT TO BE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN ORDER TO NOT BE SUSPECTED,

THIS TECHNIQUE CAN BE BROADLY APPLIED TO ANY SITUATION

IT'S WHEN A MAGICIAN GIVES THE AUDIENCE THE ILLUSION THAT THEY'RE MAKING A CHOICE.

I HOPE THE CELEVER CREEP KAJI CHAN

CAN STAY BY MY SIDE AS USUAL.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO TIME THE 1 MINUTE LIMIT IN THIS GAME?

IF THERE'S ANY PREPARATION I CAN DO BEFORE YOU COME.

I'LL ENTER THE TOWER FIRST

?

THAT'S ALL? BAKU-SAN?

I WILL...

DO IT.

REST ASSURED... THIS IS THE CLOCK THAT'S USUALLY KEPT IN THIS TOWER.

I'LL PUT IT IN FRONT OF YOU TWO.

WE NEED SOMETHING THAT CAN ACCURATELY KEEP TRACK OF TIME FOR THIS GAME.

AFTER ALL, YAKOU-SAN WILL BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH TIMING THE "SQUANDERED TIME" AND PRESIDING OUR ACTIONS.

.....

INDEED,

I ENTERED THIS ROOM A STEP LATER THAN KAJI. WE ENTERED THE ROOM SEPARATELY.

NO.

LIKE HE SAID,

HAVE YOU TWO BEEN HERE TOGETHER THIS WHOLE TIME?

3

THAT'S RIGHT...

WE NEED SOMETHING THAT CAN "ACCURATELY TIME".

WE

"WEREN'T ALWAYS TOGETHER".

AND THEN?

WE AREN'T GOING TO USE THIS.

IF IT RUNS OUT OF BATTERY DURING THE GAME,

OR MAL-FUNCTIONS,

SUCH SITUATIONS ARE POSSIBLE... IT'S NOT PERFECT.

I'M SORRY.

...

UNFOR-TUNATE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE IT, HOW ARE WE GOING TO PLAY THE GAME?

IN THE FIRST PLACE,

THAT'S... UNFORTUN-ATE.

IS THERE ANOTHER THING THAT CAN ACCURATELY TIME OTHER THAN THAT CLOCK...?

THE CONVERSATION WE'VE BEEN HAVING...

I HEARD IT ALL.

WHAT NOW?

FUKUROU-SAMA,

I'D LIKE YOU TO CONNECT THE SPEAKER TO SOMETHING.

FUKUROU-SAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YES.

AS YOU SAID BEFORE, REFEREE YAKOU THERE'S A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS USED DURING THE 3 KINGDOMS MEETING IN THIS TOWER

I SEE.

.....

THERE SHOULD BE A TELEPHONE.

IT'S A SPEAKING CLOCK, RIGHT?

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:08:00 AM.

TICK

TICK

TICK

TICK

DONG!!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

THIS SOUND IS SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING ELSE.

TICK

TICK

THAT'S THE SOUND.

ANYTHING OTHER CLOCKS ARE IRRELEVANT TO THE TIME LIMIT, INCLUDING MY WATCH.

WE'LL USE THIS SOUND, WHICH RINGS EVERY MINUTE, AS THE TIME LIMIT.

BAKU-SAMA.

THIS IS FINE.

"DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF"...

YOU CAN'T HEAR A THING EVEN IF YOU DROP IT CASUALLY AND IT'S EVEN HARDER TO HEAR FOR THE PERSON SITTING.

...

.....

THAT SHOULD BE MORE ACCURATE THAN WATCHING A CLOCK WITH YOUR EYES.

THEN,

LET'S START.

...

I'LL DO IT,

BAKU-SAN.

WE SHOULD ALSO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE HINDRANCES.

SINCE YOU'VE LIMITED THIS GAME OF 3 BY CUTTING THE NUMBER OF REFEREES TO 1,

THERE SHOULD ONLY BE THE SOUND OF THE SPEAKING CLOCK, RIGHT?

OF COURSE.

NO PROBLEM, RIGHT, FUKUROU-SAMA?

...YES.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE OF IT.

IT'S OKAY TO TIME BY LISTENING TO THE SPEAKING CLOCK, BUT WE DON'T WANT ANY OTHER NOISES TO COME FROM IT.

AFTER THAT.

I'LL WIN BY MYSELF

KAJI-CHAN... THERE'S NO NEED.

YOU ONLY

NEED TO BE THERE.

WILL WIN...

WIN...

BAKU-SAN...

...

IT'LL BE HACHINA.

...

IT'LL BE BAKU-SAN.

BAKU-SAN WILL WIN.

HACHI-NA...

HACHINA WILL WIN!

BAKU-SAN...

BAKU-SAN WILL WIN!

THERE ARE

TWO MEN STANDING.

DON'T PURSUE, AND DON'T TAKE.

ON THE PATH THAT

ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T LOOK AT.

EVEN IF ONE LOSES,

AT LEAST HE WILL DIE IN THE DREAM.

IN THE DREAM

WHERE HE BELIEVES HE IS THE WINNER.

"SURPASSING THE LEADER"

BEGINS NOW.

TO THIS DAY, BOTH OF THEM HAVE TASTED

THE TERROR OF DEATH MANY TIMES.

THEY HAVE ALWAYS

BEEN SEEKING THIS BATTLE...

RIGHT NOW, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE IN A DREAM.

SO,

I WILL NOT LOSE

YOU.

AND "C" WHO CHECKS THE HANDKERCHIEF.

"D" WHO DROPS THE HANDKER-CHIEF.

LET'S DECIDE THE ROLES FOR THE FIRST ROUND NOW.

AND THEN YOU'LL TAKE TURNS PLAYING THE TWO ROLES.

CHAPTER 494

"D" AND "C"

"D".

THEY WANT TO GAIN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST ADVANTAGE IN ORDER TO WIN.

ATTACKING FIRST HAS A CHANCE TO KILL THE OPPONENT WITHOUT GETTING HARMED...

IS THE ROLE THAT WILL ACCUMULATE THE OPPONENT'S NEAR-DEATH DRUG... IN OTHER WORDS, THE ATTACKER.

"D"

WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHO WILL PLAY "D" FIRST...

THE FIRST TO ATTACK WILL GAIN THE ADVANTAGE.

IN MOST GAMES,

PAPER,

ROCK,

AND SCISSORS,

YOU USE YOUR HAND TO MIMIC THESE THINGS...

YOU MEAN "JANKEN" (ROCK PAPER SCISSORS), RIGHT?

*THERE WAS AN ORGANIZATION WITH 48 MEMBERS THAT HELD AN EVENT OF THIS GAME.

HOW ABOUT THIS, YAKOU SAN?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

*THE AKB48 JANKEN EVENT

NO PROBLEM.

!

IF "LEADER" AGREES, I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS...

HAHA

HA

THERE IS A HUGE ORGANIZATION NAMED KAKEROU

WHOSE BUSINESS FOCUSES ON PRESIDING GAMBLES...

HA HA

PU

HU

THE SMILE OF THE MAN WHO RARELY SMILES

MADE THE OTHER TWO FOLLOW SUIT

HU

IT'S A BATTLE

BY BET-TING YOUR LIFE.

AND THIS IS A BATTLE OF FIGHTING AGAINST "KAKEROU"

WHERE YOU EITHER DIE,

THAT'S WHY THEY LAUGHED IN SPITE OF THEMSELVES

OR GAIN ENORMOUS POWER.

IT SOUNDS TOO STUPID.

AND "ROCK PAPER SCISSORS"...

SUCH A BATTLE IS GOING TO BE DETERMINED BY A GAME LIKE "DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF",

WAY TOO STUPID.

NOBODY... WOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

NOBODY WOULD ACT SO DESPERATELY

ROCK,

PAPER,

AND MAKE SUCH A SCENE.

WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT.

AND THEIR PALMS

BOTH OF THEM SWING THEIR ARMS

I WON.

SORRY.

WHICH MEANS.

IT'S FINE... IT'S COMMON THAT I LOSE IN "ROCK PAPER SCISSORS".

EVERYTHING IS GOING NORMALLY... TODAY I'LL WIN THIS MATCH, "NORMALLY".

NOW,

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT, BAKU-SAMA.

1ST ROUND, 1ST HALF

KIRUMA SOUICHI, "D"

MADARAME BAKU, "C"

WE'LL USE THE SIGNAL OF 8:12:00 AM

AS THE BEGINNING OF THE 1ST ROUND.

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

TICK

TICK

TICK

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:12:00 AM.

DONG

IT'S A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR HIM.

HIS HAIR IS STANDING UP.

IT'S AN EXTRA-ORDINARY SIGHT

HE HAS SUNKEN INTO AN UNPRECEDENTED STATE OF CONCENTRATION.

BUT HE DOESN'T CARE.

FROM THE MAN BEHIND HIM.

IN ORDER TO READ THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT

HE'S POLISHING HIS NERVES AS HARD AS HE CAN.

IN ORDER TO READ HIS MIND.

THIS GAME... IS A GAME OF ACCUMULATING AND LIMITING THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG.

MADARAME BAKU... THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE HANDKERCHIEF WILL BE DROPPED EARLY...

IF I DON'T "DROP" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO ACCUMULATE A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE DRUG.

OF COURSE I'LL TRY TO ACCUMULATE YOUR NEAR-DEATH DRUG.

YOU WANT TO "CHECK" IN THE FIRST HALF PHASE.

MEANING, YOU WANT TO "CHECK", DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE SO FOCUSED...

IF HE'S INTENDING FOR ME TO FAIL TO "CHECK" AND INJECT 1 MINUTE OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG INTO ME,

THIS IS WHAT KIRUMA SOUICHI IS THINKING...

DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF YET.

HE WON'T

HE WONT "DROP" UNTIL THE TIME'S UP.

WAITING FOR MY PATIENCE TO RUN OUT AND KILL MYSELF.

HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO "CHECK".

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:12:10 AM.

TICK

TICK

TICK

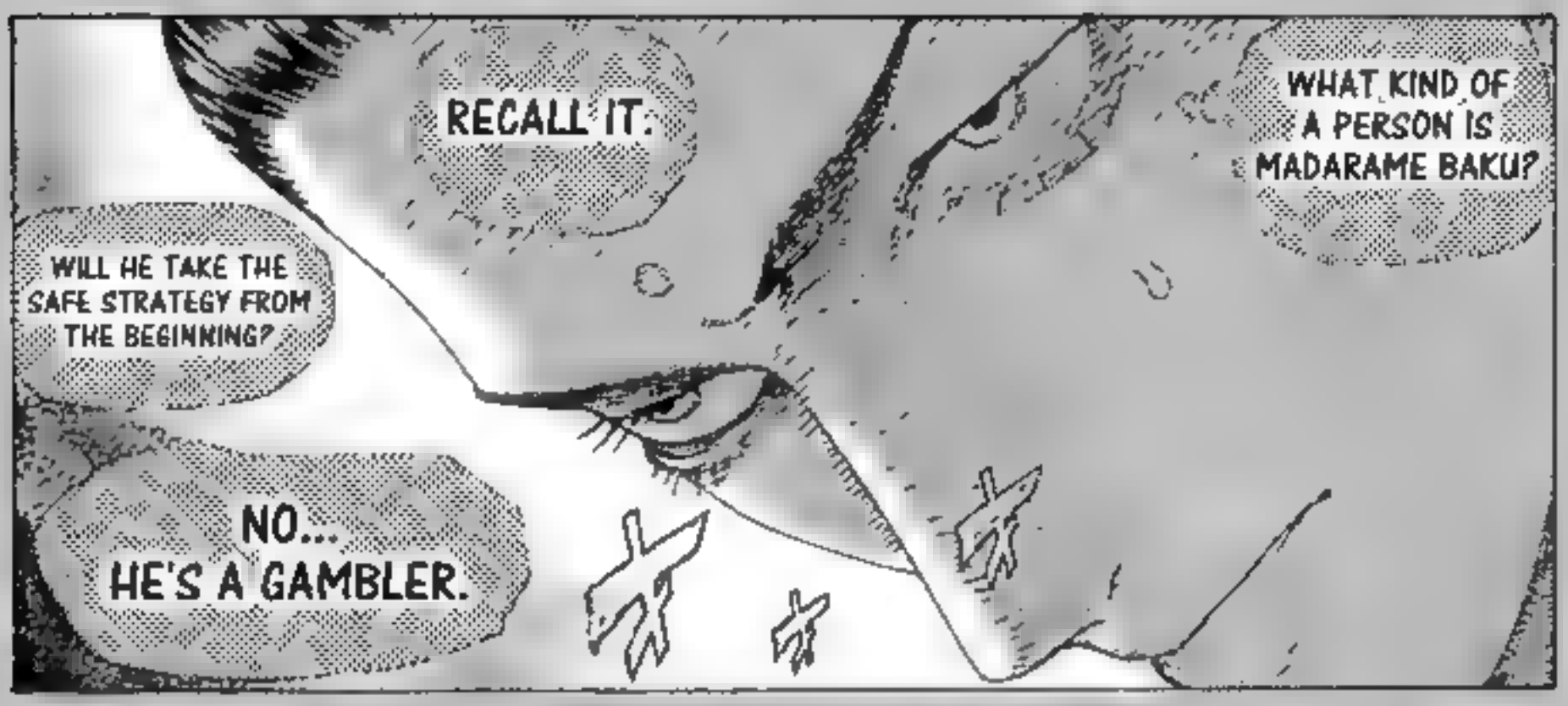
USOGUI... HAS TO FIND THE HANDKER-CHIEF.

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

AND,

THE HANDKERCHIEF HAS TO BE DROPPED WITHIN 1 MINUTE... WHICH MEANS... IF YOU "CHECK" WHEN THE TIME IS ABOUT UP, THE HANDKERCHIEF WILL BE ON THE GROUND.

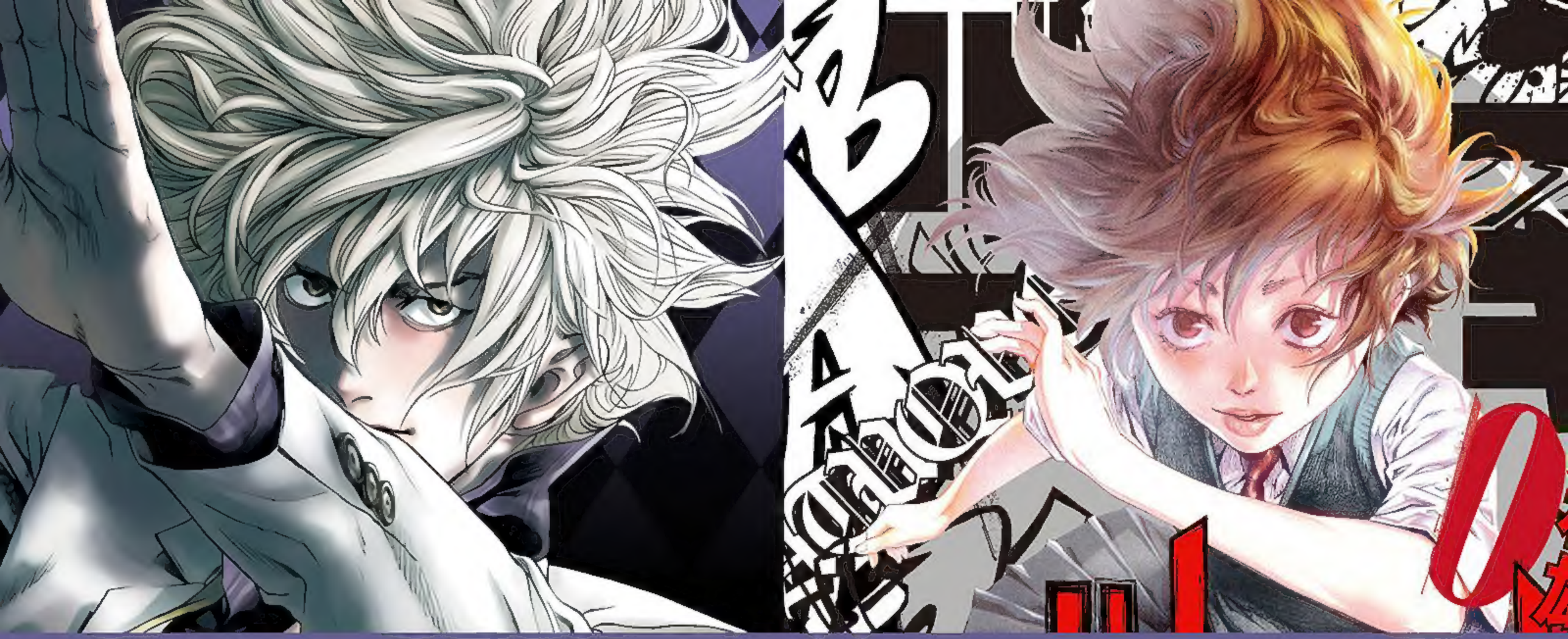
THERE'S A "SAFE STRATEGY" WHERE YOU "CHECK" NEAR THE 1-MINUTE TIME LIMIT.



HE'LL TURN HIS HEAD RIGHT AWAY... AGAINST MY "DROPPING"...

THAT'S WHAT HE'S THINKING...

HE HASN'T DROPPED IT YET...



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TP STORY

USOGUI SIDE STORY

SENSEI, LET'S SPAR.

YES.

YOUR NEXT FIGHT IS APPROACHING, RIGHT, SENSEI?

YOU AND ME?

HUH?

SO, LET'S SPAR SERIOUSLY SO THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS BE "SERIOUS".

WE'RE GOING TO SPAR SERIOUSLY, UNLIKE THE LIGHT SPARRING TOURNAMENT "YOU LOST" LAST TIME.

THAT SUPER STRONG MAN IS GOING TO KILL ME...

THE LEGENDARY MARTIAL ARTIST, TOKORO HIDEO...

"HIDEO TOKORO"...

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME!?

SPARRING SERIOUSLY WITH TOKORO-SAN?

HE... HE'S PISSED...

IS IT BECAUSE I GOT A LITTLE BIT COCKY AND LOST BEFORE?

LIKE HELL I WILL LET YOU TAKE ME DOWN SO EASILY!!

OOOOOOOOHH

I'M NOT THE LAZY PIG FROM BEFORE!! I'VE CHANGED!!

NOW, COME.

KU

THAT'S A PROFESSIONAL MATIAL ARTIST FOR YOU...

AS I THOUGHT, WE'RE NOT AT THE SAME LEVEL...

AND DON'T BE AFRAID OF YOUR OPPONENT.

AND REMEMBER, DON'T BE SO STIFF.

YOUR SHARP PUNCHES ARE ENOUGH.

IF YOU PUNCH TOO HARD, THE EFFECT WILL BE LOWERED.

YOUR STEPS ARE GOOD, SO PUNCH FASTER.

YOU HAVE TO BE MORE RELAXED.

SENSEI.

THANK YOU...

I...

BUT HE'S A REALLY NICE GUY...

IT'S HARD TO NOTICE IT BECAUSE HE'S DITZY,

TOKORO-SAN...

MADE TIME JUST FOR TEACHING ME...

IT FINALLY BEGINS!

SEARCH "USOGUI THE OLD MEN'S FIGHT, THE 2ND FIGHT" ON YOUTUBE!!

WILL WIN.

◀WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE(1 FAN RECORDING + 3 OFFICIAL RECORDINGS)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-u6WIlTYHU&list=PLHpSK_wV7KEK4QGUeO8yuYuGrxr0xphEI